JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Blundering.

As we go to press we hear of the defeat of the Government on a vital amendment to the Home Rule Bill, and the consequent adjournment of the House. Whether the Prime Minister makes the position of affairs in the Near East an excuse for remaining in office, or according to constitutional precedent tenders his resignation, the prestige of the Government has suffered a terrible blow; and we do not hesitate to say that the event was to some extent brought about by the extraordinary decision announced shortly beforehand in regard to the *affaire* Montagu.

Bobs Bobs Up Again.

Dear old Lord Roberts is being dreadfully worried over that recent speech of his. He now wishes it known that, whilst he warns us to be ready for Germany, he does not suggest that we should seek a *casus belli*. That is just what *we* do suggest—the *casus* being the unjustifiable challenging by Germany of our naval power. "Whom are you arming against?" England once asked France; and "Whom are you building ships against?" a Business Government would now ask Germany.

Not Enough.

Mr. Churchill says the only way to prevent naval rivalry is to "show that we cannot be overtaken." This marks a considerable advance upon recent policy, but it is not enough. We must show that we cannot be *challenged*.

First Blood.

Congratulations to Cap'n Tommy Bowles on drawing first blood in his fight with the Treasury over the Income Tax. We are not sure, however, that he will be safe in spending the returned duty. Our own view is that the very learned judge is wrong. We must wait and hear what the Court of Appeal will say. By the way, have you ever thought of the irony of having a Court of Appeal in a country where "every man is supposed to know the law"? Apparently, judges are specially excepted from this doctrine!

A Two-Edged Sword.

But it looks as though the sword of Justice in the hands of Mr. Justice Parker is double-edged. If a resolution of the House of Commons is not a legal authorisation for the collection of Income Tax, it would appear that such a resolution is not a legal authorisation for the collection of Customs duties. But instead of appealing, it seems that the Government will meet the situation by early legislation—and perhaps that would be the best way out of the difficulty.

White Slavery.

Although we are directing special attention to the activities of the White Slave merchants, pending the passing of the Bill now before Parliament, we must not be taken as being in accord with all the provisions of that measure. The power of arrest, on mere suspicion, given to an ordinary constable, and the punishment of flogging for a first offence, are very dangerous provisions. After all, there *have* been such things as police mistakes, haven't there? Still, there is the House of Lords left, and no doubt the Bill will be soled and heeled when it gets there. There are several peers who know a great deal about the subject.

The Menace of Mental Deficiency.

The Government is pressing on the Mental Deficiency Bill with sinister activity, and we have not heard of a single angry demonstration of hostility on the part of the people. No doubt they have not yet properly realised that the Bill has very little to do with mental deficiency, but is rather intended to create another host of highly-paid officials and empower irresponsible people to imprison inconvenient rich relations for life whenever they happen to seem eccentric in the eyes of the unimaginative. Which of us can say for certain that he may never appear, in moments of adversity, "incapable of managing his affairs with ordinary prudence"?

An Admission.

According to the *Chronicle*, the debate on the Suffragette amendment to the Home Rule Bill was admittedly "not decided on the merits of the question." We leave it there—as one more example of the working of the Party system.

Our record offer. 7,000 "Bullets" prizes. See page 666.

The Orange Free State.

The question asked by us last week as to how the Orange River Colony has come to revert to its original title of the Orange Free State, has been answered by several correspondents, who point out that the change was stipulated for at the Convention from the four Colonies and Rhodesia in February, 1909, as part of a give-and-take policy, without which the scheme of the Union would have fallen through—just in the same way as the dual language was decided upon. The insistence of the wily Boers on dropping the word Colony and restoring the phrase Free State is not, however, without its significance.

Brother Boer.

By the bye, a well-informed correspondent says:—"I have just returned from South Africa, and everywhere I find the greatest dislike and distrust of the British amongst the Boers." Some day we shall discover just how much our Brother Boer *does* love us—and forgive us.

Servia's Nemesis.

While everyone admits that the Bulgarians and Montenegrins have behaved with all the humanity and generosity consonant with warfare, ugly rumours are beginning to leak out with regard to Servian outrages. Full details will not be available until the correspondents are unmuzzled, but it was antecedently probable that the butchers of Belgrade would deal savagely with defenceless men and women. We can well believe that they burned villages, ravished maidens and cut up babes in accordance with their mediæval traditions. One incident seems to have escaped notice. When Issa Boletinats, the Albanian guerilla leader, was brought before a Servian general, he is said to have gesticulated vehemently, whereupon the general either took fright (as Servians sometimes do), or else acted of malice prepense, and shot him dead. As Issa was a celebrated warrior, who had fought the Turks again and again but might have been inconvenient to Servian schemes, we scent treachery and press for an impartial enquiry. Meanwhile, we rejoice that Servia is the only one of the allies who seems to be finding trouble in connection with the division of the spoils. It is not meet that she should prosper before she has atoned for her great crime.

Usurpers of Our Flag.

One advantage of the effacement of European Turkey will be the abolition of the Capitulations. These were an arrangement whereby European subjects enjoyed the protection of their own courts. But they had long become a scandal, through the reckless naturalisation of Levantine and other Oriental riff-raff, the benefits of British citizenship being lavished with special laxity. During the recent panic at Constantinople, we hear that there was a great run on British flags, not only for the protection of our own subjects, but of any persons who happened to be frightened. However, the new masters of Constantinople will doubtless be quite capable of administering justice without supervision.

Providence Again.

We have heard of Providence being on the side of the biggest battalions; now comes the news from Belfast that the most successful tramways are equally favoured. Replying to an illuminated address presented to him recently, Mr. Andrew Nance, General Manager of the city tramways, perorated thus: "My friends, God has abundantly blessed those who have been engaged in working the Belfast tramways. May He still continue to direct and guide us."

Compulsory Fire Alarms.

It is pointed out to us that most of the disastrous fires of recent times have occurred in the night, when there are no people about to give the alarm, or to stamp the trouble out at its inception. This fact points to the importance of the universal use of fire alarms, but according to own information the insurance offices do not encourage such a system. An eminent expert gives us two remarkable reasons for this attitude:—Firstly—They are not at all averse from small fires, which not only advertise the company but get people to insure. Secondly—Were they to give adequate proportional reductions, such a hole would be made in their premium income account that, although this would not affect their ultimate profits, it would—considering their habit of always advertising their premium income—show very badly on the advertisements.

Indiscreet Christians.

Who is responsible for the extraordinary resolution of the Free Church scholars against any further revision of the English Bible, on the ground that "such important investigations and discoveries have been and are still being made, that a new revision might be left behind in a short time by the advance of knowledge"? And who, too, is responsible for the recent statement in the *Christian*, that "the L.C.C.'s permission of picture shows on Sundays was carried by the narrow majority of two, two ministers voting for it because otherwise the cinematograph could not be used in mission halls were collections taken"?

Le Queue.

Instead of castigating Mr. Le Queux for his disingenuous account of an imaginary interview with Peter Karageorgevitch, the *Daily Express* is waxing indignant over another sort of queue—the obstructive crowds which haughty managers keep waiting outside the portals of their theatres. The Government has been tackled on the subject, and can only reply that the custom is sanctioned by a sort of prescription. That plea, however, did not avail the Bank of England very much when Tommy Bowles took it in hand.

Cancer Cures.

Once more some highly distinguished scientist announces that he has discovered an infallible cure for cancer, and no doubt thousands of dying people are filling their hearts with hope. But there is a certain cruelty about such announcements until they have been thoroughly tested and verified. We have not forgotten the famous German professor Behring and the Italian professor Maragliano, who told the world that they could overcome consumption. Since then, Maragliano has owned up to his mistake, while Behring has given up science and retired to a lunatic asylum. In the case of the newcomer, Dr. Odin, there are, however, two encouraging signs: (1) he is a free-lance, unfettered by the faculty, and declines all financial assistance; (2) he has not only tested his discovery on himself, but has even inoculated his body with cancer germs in order to be more convincing. Anyhow, he is a brave man, and we wish him good luck.

"John and Mary."

Our readers will not have forgotten the wonderful combined Xmas Annual of this journal and *Mrs. Bull* published last year, under the title of *John and Mary*. This year's number is now going to press, and your orders for copies should be given at once. As a greeting from the old country to friends and relations abroad *John and Mary* is unique.

"Bulletts" is still growing by leaps and bounds. See page 666.

Anti-Whist Drive Campaign.

Evidently there is to be no rest for whist-drivers. In sending to the Sessions the case of a Hackney man who organised drives under the form of a social club, the North London magistrate held that the mere fact of the members depositing a shilling did not take the drives out of the Gaming Act, while during one part of the case the solicitor for the Commissioner of the Police made the confident statement that "whist drives are illegal, even if they are carried on at the Carlton Club." Presently, no doubt, we shall be told that they are illegal in private houses. There is, however, a wide difference between the drives forming part of the social activities of *bonâ-fide* clubs and those exploited in public halls for the profit of individual promoters.

The Difference.

As we have said all along, the cheating which has constituted so prominent a feature among a certain class of people competing for high prizes at public drives has been primarily responsible for the interference of the authorities with what, in fair conditions, is a form of harmless entertainment enjoyed by thousands of people, despite the fact that its chief element is chance rather than skill. In *bonâ-fide* clubs there is no cheating, and the few shillings spent on prizes merely gives some such zest to the game as playing "snap" for nuts or "beggar-my-neighbour" for toffee. In many clubs—certainly in most of the West-end ones—card games of pure chance are played for more or less high stakes in money, and it is strange that a mainly social entertainment like a whist drive should be illegal in clubs, while card games which are an unalloyed gamble are carried on with impunity. The Commissioner of Police notwithstanding, there has been as yet no authoritative legal decision against the holding of whist drives at the Carlton, or any other, club.

We Beg to Move——

Has anyone noticed the fact that the out-and-out supporters of the White Slave Traffic Bill are chiefly ladies and clergymen with more zeal and energy than knowledge of human nature? The kind ladies and worthy clergymen should remember that the sale of virtue is not confined to streets and houses of ill-fame, but is carried on quite openly by mothers who smother themselves in furs and diamonds and hawk their daughters about at dinner-parties, balls, garrison towns, and other market places. Wouldn't it be possible to bring such traffickers within the scope of the Bill? No doubt the suggestion will be thought outrageous, for it is high treason to say anything derogatory about people in high places, but if their liberties were occasionally threatened, they might be less eager to encourage the persecution of weaker sisters.

A Wesleyan Guildite.

It would be interesting to know whether Mr. Claude Beverley is still pursuing his religious activities in Gainsborough. He is described as "Organist of the Wesleyan Chapel and Secretary of the Wesleyan Guild," and has been summoned by a girl in the town to "show cause," etc., and has been adjudged to pay 3s. a week and costs. This contemptible humbug courted the girl for five years, wrote her passionate love letters about twice a week, calling her his "precious darling," his "own sweet love," and other saccharinous names, became the father of her child, and then threw her over to get what consolation and compensation she could from a Police Court. The Gainsborough Wesleyans have their own religious ideals, of course; but we hope the Chapel is now provided with another organist and the Guild with another secretary.

Emigration Fake Again.

The plain speaking of the *Buenos Aires Standard* on the subject of the luring of clerks, chiefly Irish, to the Argentine capital, ought to be welcome to everybody except the born fool who welcomes the advice of nobody. Our contemporary quotes the circular of an Irish emigration agent, who alleges that work for clerks is plentiful, that pending employment the Government will lodge them free of cost in their own hotels for at least a month, that the wages are high, that engagements run from three to five years, and that the newcomers need have no money on their arrival. Our contempoary then proceeds to nail down these gross lies one by one, pointing out that there is practically no chance whatever for the non-Spanish speaking and writing clerk, that "the rank and file of clerks barely receive a living wage," that the Government will not accept any responsibility for the emigrant clerks' maintenance at all, and that the agent who issues the circular "ought to be severely dealt with." He ought to be, he and all his kind; but, unfortunately, he is on the windy side of the law.

Bobbing Up Again.

Evidently Mr. George Redford has tired of being out of a job in which he can censor something or somebody, so up he bobs again as censor of films for the Associated Cinematograph Manufacturers. There are certainly a few bluggy and burglar-hero films much better out of the way of audiences which include children, and one or two here and there on the warmer side of human nature better kept for the vision of young men and girls; but our friend should understand that he is not required to set up some standard of "desirability" peculiar to himself. Perhaps he will be adequately guided in his duties if he remembers that all film audiences do not consist of duplicate Redfords.

A Chertsey Sentence.

Regnar Harper, a young farm hand, was employed by Mr. William Winzer, of Pannall's Farm, Chertsey. The lad had no fixed abode; he had no father; and he had left his mother in London "because she drank so and knocked him about." In a shed on the farm was a bicycle; this the youth took away, hiding it in a hedge. On being questioned by the police he told them where they would find it. Giving evidence against the boy before the local magistrates, Mr. Winzer certainly left unsaid nothing that would excite prejudice in the minds of the sort of magistrates who administer Chertsey justice. He said he did all he could for the lad. He gave him a start, a good bed, plenty of food, a shirt and other things, and even soled a pair of boots for him. One might incline to count all this a special righteousness in Mr. Winzer, but for the fact that, in return for all these blessings, he worked the boy from 5.30 of a morning until 7.30 at night; also that he was eloquently silent on the subject of wages. The police had apparently nothing else against this "prisoner," and though the magistrate, an old gentleman named Boyce, might have given him the benefit of the First Offenders Act or the Borstal System, he was sent to gaol for a month. Thus are criminals manufactured in the name of the law.

Chance for a Dentist.

If there is anyone about anxious to increase his treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break in and steal, he should make early application to the Industrial School for Girls at Watford. "The salary is £15 a year, and no additional allowance will be made for travelling expenses"; but it is understood that the official dentist will be permitted to keep all the old teeth not required by his patients.

Our first "Bullets" prize increased this week to £200.

Marconi as Philanthropist.

According to the witnesses for the Post Office before the House of Commons Committee on the Marconi contract, the Marconi Company is a philanthropic concern of huge dimensions. "Your view is that Mr. Marconi is going to lose £10,000 on each of these stations?" Lord Robert Cecil asked Mr. Llewellyn Preece. "No, not so much as that," was the reply; "£4,000 or £5,000." A day or two before, Sir Alexander King, Secretary to the Post Office, had said much the same thing. We are willing to believe that these gentlemen believe it; but we must also add that people who are capable of believing it are capable probably of believing anything. It recalls to mind the Bishop to whom a friend related some things which he had "seen with his own eyes." "If you say so I am bound to believe you," said his lordship, "but it is so astounding that I would not have believed it even if I had seen it myself." We expect, however, that Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, the brilliant young boss of the show, will soon put matters right when *he* steps into the witness chair. There is no humbug about him.

Divorce Court Report.

If the forecast of the long-delayed Report of the Divorce Commission, signed at last, is correct, there is a chance of the poor coming into their own—some day. We say "some day," because the immemorial purpose of Royal Commissions has been to delay legislation, and because the Government will probably be too busy for some time to come to take in hand the equalisation of the divorce law between the sexes, the cheapening of divorce to the poor, and the granting of divorce for insanity or penal servitude for life. It is said that a majority of the Commissioners agree that divorces should come into the jurisdiction of County Courts, and this, in practice, will probably be the easiest solution of the question of cost. But we must wait—and read.

Westmorland Sanatorium for Consumption.

The Westmorland Sanatorium is situated at Grange-over-Sands, Lancashire, and we are informed it is under the control of a committee of eight, who are a permanent self-elected body. The establishment is subsidised by the boroughs of Bolton, Blackburn, and Barrow. There are 110 beds and a staff of 25. We hear that the medical officers are constantly changed, and that now the whole of the staff have resigned owing to tyrannical treatment. We hear a lot also with reference to the patients, and hope to deal with the matter fully in an early issue.

Justice at Tottenham.

A fine of 20s. or 14 days' imprisonment has been inflicted by the Tottenham magistrates upon a man for not sending his child to school. He had been summoned previously, it seems, when the charge was dismissed. The man tells us that on this, the second occasion, he explained to the Attendance Officer that his child was unable to attend school on account of a bad foot. A doctor's certificate was also given to the Education Committee. Being told that everything was in order, the father did not attend the Court—hence the fine. Now, we have before us a medical certificate covering the period when this child was absent from school, and the imposition of a fine or the infliction of imprisonment is a gross miscarriage of justice.

The Safety of Courage.

We find we have been forestalled in our remarks on this subject by Napoleon Bonaparte, who said that "In war, daring is the highest caution."

Where Is Truth?

The old question used to be, "What is truth?" The new question is, "Where is truth?" In a perjury case at the Old Bailey counsel mentioned that cases of the kind were rare. "Rare?" exclaimed the Recorder. "Perjury is committed before me in almost every case I try in this court." He might also have added that it is committed in almost every case which any other judge tries. In the picture commission case last week, the Lord Chief Justice, who at the beginning said he had known both gentlemen for many years and could not believe either of them capable of an untruth, remarked at the end that there could be no doubt one of them was lying. Wherever truth is, the law courts are the last places we should search in the hope of finding it.

Lonely Signalmen—

Three years ago we drew the attention of the Government to the death of a signalman whilst at work on the main line to the North, and urged that legislation should be framed to secure that at least two persons should be on duty in every box. We were told that under what is known as the block system accidents were impossible—which is absurd. Recently we have had two further cases of accident brought to our notice, although, happily, they were without any disastrous consequences. At Barton Hill, near Bristol, a signalman died just after seeing the line clear for a mail train, and on the Midland line a man who had been in the employ of the Company for over 40 years died just after passing four important trains to safety. Under the Business Government the companies will be compelled to adopt the safeguard we have suggested.

And Motor-'Bus Drivers.

And, in the same way, every motor-'bus will be required to carry an assistant driver. One of these days, we shall have the driver fainting, or seized with some sudden illness; the 'bus, with its human cargo, will dash headlong into the traffic, scores of lives will be lost—and *then*, the "Board" of Trade will "consider the question of new Regulations."

Latest News.

Whilst the fate of Europe is trembling in the balance, and, according to the Party politicians, the stability of our own Empire is threatened by internal dangers, wasn't it just a little incongruous that the world should have been startled the other evening by flaming placards, obscuring all other news, announcing the apparently momentous fact that a lady, whose late husband was taken from her a short time ago, under painful circumstances, had decided to try her luck again?

Our National Reserve.

From the formation of this arm of the Service, we have always expressed the opinion that it was a fraud and a farce—that it possessed neither arms nor organisation. The officers now seem to be taking our view, for we see that out of one battalion alone (Lewisham) the Commanding Officer and eighteen other commission holders have resigned. Now, Seely, throw Haldane over and think for yourself!

Praying for Rain.

A Johannesburg correspondent sends us some local newspapers announcing that the churches, on the proclamation of the acting Governor-General of South Africa, were about to pray for rain. It is a queer world. Only a few months ago British churches were praying or it to stop. We knew somebody must be running fshort somewhere.

Now is the time to try "Bullets." See our remarkable offer on page 666.

Law Courts Congestion.

Whilst they are about it, the members of the Royal Commission which is to consider the best means of preventing congestion in the Courts, might seriously deal with the proposal which we urged upon the Attorney-General more than once, in the House of Commons, for the appointment of official shorthand writers in all the Courts. The time now wasted in "watching his lordship's pen" would enable hundreds of other cases to be disposed of!

"There is None Righteous."

"The perfect saint is the perfect citizen," remarked Dr. Clifford at Westbourne Park last week, when dealing with the municipal elections. Possibly; but seeing that death is the only gateway to saintly perfection, it seems to us to follow that a live sinner is more useful to the general community than a citizen who has attained to perfection through death. Especially in matters of drainage, lighting, dust removal, etc.

What's In a Name?

Have you noticed the double-lettered names of men charged with murder of late?—Woolf, Wood, Crippen, Seddon, Hopwood, Williams. We must be careful about ourselves!

Bishops and Babies.

The dearth of babies worries still the Bishop of London. On the other hand, the abundance of them worries his reverend brother, the Bishop of Bristol. He has informed the Archbishop of Canterbury that he cannot continue to hold his see unless the crying of infants in church is at once stopped. We must leave it to the two divines to settle the matter between them.

Unwanted Children.

A reader informs us that in Moscow there is a splendid Foundling Hospital, the upkeep of which is provided for entirely by a tax upon theatre tickets. Taxing one luxury to pay for another!

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

TOO MUCH TURKEY.

In 'bus and train, in tube and tram,
One subject only can be heard,
Till, sick to death, I mutter "Damn!"
And curse the country and the bird.
It's Turkey this, and Turkey that,
Till, dazed, I know not what I'm at!

In morning paper, magazine,
In journal and in evening rag,
No other topic can be seen—
To read becomes a frightful fag.
It's Turkey here, and Turkey there,
Till I'm bewildered, I declare!

My friends are nearly all as bad—
For morning, afternoon and night,
They talk of Turkey's case as sad,
Or in her troubles take delight.
It's Turkey why? and Turkey what?
So now I do the Turkey trot!

Let me not hear the word again;
The bird I never wish to see:
For Turkey's stamped upon my brain,
I'm much afraid, eternally.
It's Turkey could, and Turkey should—
No more for me is Turkey food!

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating that, in proposing a vote of thanks, Mr. J. J. Smith said that "he sincerely hoped the time would be LONG DISTANT *when they would have the pleasure of seeing the lecturer again,"*

THE CORNWALL COUNTY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a paragraph regarding Madame Sarah Bernhardt that "she is now TORTURING *the provinces in person,"*

THE ASHBOURNE TELEGRAPH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For placing in the mouth of one of the characters in her novel, "Brave Little Heart," the words: "*LEAVE *me—*LEAVE *me. Let me lie here—*AT YOUR FEET,"

MISS MAUDE CRAWFORD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For advertising in the "Essex Weekly News": "*CAME ASTRAY, *Heifer;* ANYONE *not claiming the same within seven days will be* SOLD *to defray expenses,"*

"POWER (Nazing, Essex)"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating in its report of a recent charge of theft that: "*MR. HEDLEY PROSECUTED, AND WAS BOUND OVER TO BE OF GOOD BEHAVIOUR FOR 12 MONTHS,"

THE EVENING CHRONICLE (Newcastle)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For issuing a printed "Notice to Visitors" stating that "Any ROOM *using Gas* ARE *requested to see that it is shut off tight before retiring at night,"*

"J. C. GRIFFIN (Jermyn Court Hotel)"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article in "Motor Cycling," entitled "Ten Days on the Road," that: "It was AFTER MIDDAY *one glorious September* MORNING *when I left Coventry. . . . Without a* WORD *of warning the cows, restive after their milking, dashed out from a hidden doorway,"*

"PLATINUM"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating in its report of the recent re-marriage of the widow of Frederick Henry Seddon, the murderer of Miss Barrow, that: "*AFTER *the ceremony had concluded the register was signed, and* MRS. SEDDON *walked out with her husband,"*

THE LIVERPOOL ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "This morning as a MOTOR-*lorry was proceeding along Amiens Street in the direction of Clontarf, the* HORSE *suddenly dashed up on the foothpath, knocking down a street lamp,"*

THE SATURDAY HERALD (Dublin)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the battle of Kumanovo that: "The advancing INFANTRY *was* ARTILLERY,"

THE DUBLIN EVENING MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

2,000 Xmas Turkeys as "Bullets" prizes. See page 666.

ABDUCTION AGENTS INVADE ENGLAND.—II.

ANTICIPATING THE BILL—NEW TACTICS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROCURERS—LACK OF MORAL COURAGE ON PART OF VICTIMS—SPECIFIC CASES.

By Our Special Commissioner.

There is ample evidence that the "White Slave Bill," as it is termed, is to a very great extent being anticipated. But this announcement must not be interpreted to mean that the measure introduced by Mr. King, M.P., will be effectual. It won't. As a matter of fact, it will make bad worse.

New Tactics.

Already these vile touts are making fresh arrangements. The first check to the traffic occurred some time ago, when the London County Council obtained power to deal with Employment Agencies. Since that time the traffickers have been busy with their Intelligence Department. Their new arrangements are now complete.

The following letter, received from my agent in Vienna, in reply to an enquiry with reference to a scoundrel who was engaging girls in this country on the pretence of obtaining them stage appointments, will give some idea of the manœuvres adopted :—

> In reply to your enquiry concerning the impresario, I have been looking everywhere to hear something concerning the man—at last my efforts have met with success. He is doing a great deal of business here and in Paris, and as he dare not put his foot on English soil on account of Scotland Yard—you will remember he fled when the police raided his place—every *bona-fide* Variety Agent is wondering how he obtains his girls. This is how he does it. He has some girls at —— (a well-known Cabaret). I got an introduction to one of them, took her out to supper, and the rest was quite easy. I offered to pay her fare back to London, after she had told me her story, but she refused. The life is, of course, new to her, but she will soon alter her views. She informed me that a lady engaged her and another girl at Birmingham, and that they were both given their tickets to Paris, *via* Dover and Calais. I cannot vouch as to how he got his other girls, but I should say all in a similar manner, because no respectable Variety Agent on your side would supply him with girls. The man is a bankrupt, and has no right to accept any financial responsibility. I learn that he has recently sent seven girls from London to Algiers—of course you know what will happen to them there! The man is a pest of the *bona-fide* music-hall profession, and only uses it as an introduction for obtaining girls for purposes of the White Slave Traffic.

Such are the new tactics.

Specific Cases.

Before me, in a dossier, there are particulars of more than a dozen specific cases of procuration. It may be asked why I do not give the evidence to the police. To that my reply is that I am an Investigator, not a police informer. If I were to supply evidence to the police of all the dreadful cases which come to my notice as Special Commissioner of the widest-read weekly journal in Great Britain, I should spend all my time in the witness-box. On one occasion, under the title of "The Old Hag of Birmingham," I told the story—disclosing full names and addresses—of how I had bargained with a woman named Luckman for a child of tender years. What happened? Did the police prosecute? Not a bit of it! Instead, they waited six months, after which they raided the place and had the "Old Hag" convicted for the comparatively trivial offence of keeping a disorderly house!

The unhappy victims, when pressed to prosecute, usually wind up by saying, "Oh, the exposure would kill me," or "I would like to do so, but the shock would kill my people." All the parents I have met are profuse in their desire that I should expose the vampires—but they invariably add, with great emphasis, "On no account must you publish our names."

A Southampton Case.

Let me for a moment, however, drop my own particular cases and deal with one at Southampton, investigated by one of my assistants :—

> The father of the victim is a stevedore. Both he and his wife are a thrifty couple. Their family consists of five girls, to the eldest of whom this story relates. From a child she was fond of music and dancing, and whatever few pounds the parents could save after the household was provided for went in this daughter's tuition. At eighteen years of age she had an elementary knowledge of singing and dancing, although the happy family, of course, imagined that she was a budding star, and only wanted to be heard by managers to be at once engaged. Her father brought her to London and saw certain music-hall agents who, to give them their due, were brutal in their frankness that the girl was impossible as a variety artist. But she had set her mind on the stage, and accordingly an advertisement was placed in several papers, with the result that a Continental agent of bad repute got into communication with her. This man had his representative over here, and eventually—after a talk with the parents, and a test of the girl's abilities—an agreement was drawn up for a three years' contract. A portion of the salary was to be paid monthly to the parents. Brussels was her first "engagement"—singing in one of the lowest shows of that city. There a certain "gentleman of means" fell in "love" with her. This was the commencement of her downward career. For a few months she had all the dresses and jewellery her heart desired. Then her betrayer was missing—and so was the jewellery! The first steps having been taken, the rest was easy. The few shillings she got as wages were not sufficient for her needs, and she was too proud to return home. Her manager then told her how to make more. The troupe went to Paris, and she was installed in a cabaret near the Montmartre, where she was practically kept a prisoner for a period of four months. Her story of life in this den will not bear publication. The girl is now at home with her parents, a physical and mental wreck. And the agent is on the look out for fresh recruits!

Now in this particular case I have the name of the man in this country who booked the troupe, also the name of the woman who used to herd the girls together and collect the money which they had "earned." But the informant, as soon as he was urged to prosecute, respectfully declined "on account of his shopmates and the neighbours"!

An Offer to Victims.

If this article should meet the eye of any girl who is a victim of the White Slave trafficker, let her communicate with me, and I will try and help her. She should address her letter :—

The Special Commissioner,
"John Bull,"
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Wherever she lives, I have an agent.

(*To be continued.*)

Special Xmas "Bullets" prizes. See our generous offer. Page 666.

STICKING TO "THE STICKS."

AN INTERESTING DEAL IN FURNITURE.

In March last we published one or two paragraphs regarding a concern entitled "Secretaryships," having offices at Walter House, Strand, which ostensibly existed for the purpose of procuring such posts for deserving people. We commented upon the fact that a Mr. Oxley had telegraphed to an applicant for such a position asking him to wire £15 for a particularly tempting introduction. Subsequently we published disclaimers by Sir Paynton Pigott, M.V.O., and Mr. Clarke Stoughton, J.P.—described as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Governing Committee respectively—that they were in any way connected with it, the former gentleman stating that when the matter first came to his notice in July, 1911, he demanded that Mr. Oxley should remove his name from all printed matter and from the door of the offices, as no permission whatever had been given for its appearance, and he had absolutely no knowledge of the concern. Now, we have recently had before us documents relating to a claim against both Mr. Oxley and Sir Paynton Piggott in respect of furniture purchased for the Walter House premises in August of last year. The price of the articles was cut to as fine a point as possible, under pressure from Oxley, who was obviously reluctant to part with money unnecessarily, though the vendor did not think such reluctance would extend as far as it has—for from that date to this he has been paid but £5, the position being that he has owing to him £48 11s. 3d. and costs of two successful County Court actions amounting to little less. Oxley, when giving the order, wrote that he was "Sir Paynton Pigott's agent," though when that gentleman was threatened with proceedings, the self-styled agent stated that "the liability is wholly mine." Later, when threatened with execution, he coolly replied: "I have no goods whatever of my own, and as you will see if you refer to the *Gazette*, one or two people have already wasted money in this direction." Sir Paynton not having paid anything in respect of a joint ment, he was also threatened with execution, whereupon he instructed his solicitors to apply to the Court to vary it on the ground that he had never received the summons left for him at Walter House, and the case—so far as it affected him—was ordered to be re-heard on April 30th.

During all this time, Oxley was writing the plaintiff's solicitors with offers of settlement by instalments, all such overtures, however, breaking down because he would never back them with a cash payment.

On April 29th he wrote that he accepted the Plaintiff's terms for the ending of the whole matter, and was sending his wife's cheque "by to-night's post." Next day he wired "cheque just posted." The action against Sir Paynton Pigott was accordingly adjourned. No cheque, however, came to hand and the proceedings against Sir Paynton were continued, when, despite his assertion when obtaining a new trial that he would fight the action, he failed to appear upon the hearing and judgment was, of course, given against him. The position to-day is that neither defendant has paid anything in respect of the debt, and that Receiving Orders in Bankruptcy have been made against them, there being little prospect of a dividend being obtained from either of the estates.

The result of the partnership of Pigott and Oxley is that many deserving people have been ruined—besides the poor "secretaries" deprived of their 3 guineas each, even his typist has lost her wages—persons who had lodged substantial sums as cash guarantees having lost their all.

"JOY DAY."

There is no doubt whatever that the Insurance Act hits the very poor a deadly blow. The following is displayed by a Teddington florist:—

NOTICE.

Monday next, and all succeeding Mondays, work will be suspended and the day observed as "Joy Day." On Tuesday those men who have been at work on the day previous and have their cards stamped will be employed.

A COWARDLY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

BEFOULING A GIRL'S FAIR FAME.

The Co-operative Holidays Association is a body whose objects will commend themselves generally. Its central offices are at 223-5, Brunswick Street, Manchester, and it is stated to be founded "to provide recreative, educative, and health-giving holidays at the lowest possible cost; to organise excursions accompanied by competent field lecturers; to furnish or rent, assist and support furnished guest-houses in selected centres," etc. Its practice, however, apparently leaves something to be desired, for on September 30th the Secretary, Mr. T. Arthur Leonard, sent to a young lady who had for the third year in succession gone upon one of its trips, the following letter—bearing traces of duplication:—

> DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—Certain matters have been reported to me arising out of your stay at Dinan, and I feel them to be of sufficient importance to justify their reference to our Committee. Should you wish to make any statement on the subject, I shall be glad to hear from you, and will lay same before my Committee.

The reply to this grave but vague insinuation was, naturally, a request for a copy of the report mentioned, in order that any specific allegations might be refuted; but would it be believed that neither the lady herself nor her father can obtain a copy of this document—for instead of complying with the request the Secretary wrote on April 3rd:

> In accordance with the powers vested in the Committee of the above Association, it has been decided to ask you not to apply again for admission to any centre or centres.

It is quite impossible for the girl or her parents to conceive of any reason for this stab in the back. Upon her visit to Dinan she was accompanied by another lady—an orphan—who had been her principal friend for many years, and she also has received a letter of expulsion. The parents are, of course, highly indignant, as within three days of the Secretary making his vague complaint, the Committee passed a hurried judgment condemning two girls whose version of the alleged occurrences—whatever they may be—they had not allowed to be placed before them. But the Secretary's only answer to such natural complaints is: "I regret I am unable to send you the particulars for which you ask, except to state that the decision referred to is in accordance with Rule VII. of our Articles of Association"—such rule reading: "The General Committee or any person authorised by them shall have power to expel any member or other guest from any holiday centre without notice, and without giving any reason for such expulsion"!

That it was a way of bringing to book such legally-immune, cowardly slanderers formed the principal apology for duelling. But why not try a stout horsewhip?

"DOCTOR POPE BEYOND ALL HOPE."

THE "DISCIPLINING" OF MEDICAL MEN.

The Financial Secretary and Business Manager of the British Medical Association tells us that Dr. Pope is not, and apparently never has been, a member of that body. He also points out that the Association has, of course, no disciplinary control over members of the medical profession as a whole, such statutory powers being vested in the General Medical Council—this, indeed, we clearly implied, as although by a slip there was in the body of the paragraph a reference to the "British Medical Association" taking action, the question "What says the Medical Council?" formed part of the title, while the last sentence, italicised, was "What do the Medical Council intend to do?"

The British Medical Association is, of course, a trade union within a general trade union, including, we believe, about half the members of the whole profession—the Incorporated Law Society being a somewhat similar body. By the way, although before depriving a professional man of his livelihood it is necessary for the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Society to obtain the order of three of his Majesty's Judges, who have the respondent before them in open Court and carefully weigh the facts, no such fair treatment is meted out by the General Medical Council, who, on grounds which are apparently sometimes far from adequate, arbitrarily ostracise qualified practitioners.

1,000 Christmas gifts for "Bullets" competitors. See page 666.

PAYING GUEST SHARKS.

A SHORT LIFE, BUT A MERRY ONE.

A recent article on bogus agencies for servants has inspired some correspondents to send us lamentations about a fraudulent trade in paying guests. We can well believe that people are usually on their last legs before they start a boarding-house! Here, for instance, is the case of a business man who worked hard for 10 years, with a rogue for a partner. Worry and ill-health afforded the rogue an opportunity of making off with our friend's capital, so he thought he would try to make both ends meet by starting a boarding-house. But our friend realised that however comfortable his house may be, it must be known before he can hope to turn it into a paying concern. In order to do so he has paid three fees to firms advertising that they have paying guests who require homes. To one of them he gave a fee of 5s. for registration, promising her a commission when suited. No acknowledgment was sent, and he has not seen her advertisement since, nor have his further letters been answered or returned by the Dead Letter Office. Another firm required £1 1s. in advance, and he sent it at once, not being deterred by his previous experience. In this case, he received the names of three people, who all appeared to want exactly what he had to offer. Greatly elated by this good fortune, he wrote to them at full length, but received no replies. He complained to the agency, and asked for at least a dozen names, which he did not consider unreasonable to expect from a genuine agency. Instead of twelve he received only one, and this elicited a very polite letter from the gentleman, who expressed thanks and regretted that he was already suited. As we read the beginning of our correspondent's complaints we wondered to ourselves why bogus agencies did not take the trouble of arranging for bogus replies to be sent to enquirers. Now, our correspondent suggests that this is precisely what happened in the case of the kind gentleman who took so much trouble in sending his regrets. Many of these advertisements are printed in the form of Private Wants, but enquirers receive replies from agencies only. In one of the cases our friend was asked £1 1s., but declined to pay anything more in advance. He was, however, prepared to pay 10s. 6d., in addition to commission for every guest received. The only answer to this suggestion was that the registration fee might be reduced to 10s. 6d. to meet his wishes. All this is very fishy, for, if agencies really had guests to offer, they would be quite willing to rely upon payment after the transaction of business.

Our only wonder is that, when people come to the end of their tether, they do not all set up boarding-house agencies, instead of boarding-houses, and live comfortably on the fees which innocent people send in—until the County Council gets on their track! Are there *any* honest people still left in this wicked world?

BUREAUCRACY RUN MAD.

L.C.C. TOMFOOLERY.

In April last the London County Council prosecuted Mr. Henry Allen, of Hackney, for employing three male servants without a licence. He is a contractor, and actually held a contract from the L.C.C. to convey defective children from their homes to school. The three servants in question were employed by him as coachmen to drive the ambulance in which the youngsters were carried. The magistrate took the common-sense view that the Act was intended to tax only people who employed servants as a luxury, and suggested to counsel for the prosecution that an analogy would be to tax the police who took away the prisoners in "Black Maria." The summons was dismissed. Not being satisfied with this decision, the snake-brained legal advisers of the L.C.C. entered an appeal, which has just been heard before the Lord Chief Justice and two other judges. Of course, the L.C.C. lost again. But what tomfoolery to be sure! At least £500 of the taxpayers' money wasted—thrown away in endeavouring to do an honest man a wrong

SWEATING THE FOREIGNER.

TRANSLATORS AND "TICK."

The Universal Cable Code Co., Ltd., have premises at Halton House, Holborn. They have been established there a few months only, but according to the printed matter which they have issued, branches are being formed in every part of the world—the only place of note they seem to have missed out of the list being Timbuctoo.

In September the following advertisement appeared in a morning paper:—

> German, French and Spanish.—Volunteers required by limited Co. Salary when proficient.—Call Office D., 210, High Holborn, W.C.

There were many responses, and at least three men—who have complained to us—were engaged, the verbal terms being three or four weeks' voluntary service, after which, if satisfactory, they would be permanently employed at a weekly wage of thirty shillings. During this probationary period they were engaged in translating work, and at its expiration were summarily discharged. In every case, however, it seems that the men were given a written reference. Here is the copy of one:—

> This is to certify that Mr. —— had been in our employ for about five weeks, during which time we have found him honest and industrious. He has proved himself a very capable Russian translator.
>
> For the Universal Cable Code (Patent) Co., Ltd.,
> (*Signed*) W J. Jefferies, *Assistant Manager.*

We particularly draw attention to the last sentence.

The man in question having found out that he had been fooled, took legal advice, with the result that the Cable Company received a solicitor's letter demanding payment for services rendered during the five weeks. To this they sent the following amazing reply:—

> I am instructed to inform you that your statement that my company arranged to give your client a salaried post in consideration of four to five weeks' voluntary service is absolutely untrue.
>
> The letter of the 14th inst. to which you refer was given to him at his request for the purpose of assisting him to get another position.
>
> Your client was never engaged as a translator and his translations were not accepted and used as you imply.
>
> As a matter of fact his translations are of no use at all to us, which fact must have been clearly realised by your client had he troubled to reflect on the nature of our business.
>
> Mr. —— was sent to us on the distinct understanding that if we were satisfied with regard to his progress with regard to the picking up of the essential principles of our Codg. System we would arrange an appointment on terms to be mutually agreed.
>
> The remuneration subsequently asked by Mr. —— was 30s. a week, and in view of the fact that my Directors did not feel disposed to pay this amount, he was advised that it was unadvisable for him to continue here.
>
> We would point out that the translations were made for the purpose of acquainting Mr. —— with our Codg. system.
>
> In view of the fact that his knowledge of English was very imperfect, this was the only method we could adopt to ensure a careful perusal of the typed matter given him to assimilate.
>
> As evidence of good faith we should be quite willing to burn all your client's work in his or your presence. No use can or has been made of it.
>
> We are surprised at the attitude your client takes up and consider that he had no claim whatever against us

We are at a loss to understand how the Company can reconcile this letter with that of its Assistant Manager. The men have been treated in a very strange manner.

VIRTUE ITS OWN—AND ONLY—REWARD.

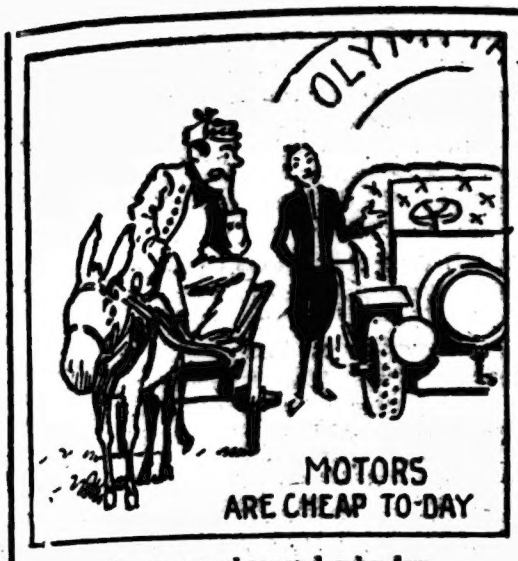
WHY MANY TAKE "THE EASIEST WAY."

The attention which the White Slave Traffic is attracting from all quarters is a healthy sign. There is, however, one prolific breeding-place of victims which is often ignored by the most zealous reformers—namely, the large City restaurants and bars. In a certain well-known house in Fenchurch Street, the barmaids are paid 12s. a week, and out of this have money deducted for breakages, etc.—last week the amount being 10½d. and the week before 7½d. No wonder there is great temptation to adopt an easier method of earning a living than hard work.

£750 value in prizes offered for "Bullets" this week.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."



To see cars cheaper day by day
Prophetic thought provokes—
Ere long our costermongers may
Drive motors 'stead of nokes.

Once more the loving-cup goes round—
But from the angry East
The mutterings of war resound
And echo at the feast.

The famous airman, flying low,
Too late the creature spied;
He gave the cow a cow'ard blow
Of which it went and died.

"A handsome man in evening dress"
Is "wanted" by the force;
If that's the only clue, I guess
Holmes is their one resource.

When ladies make a profit, they
To take it never fail;
But when they're called upon to *pay*,
Well—that's another tale.

Upon the Ulster rocks behold
The Home Rule barque impend:
The reckless wreckers may be bold,
But who foresees the end?

ANOTHER MAD DOG SCHEME.

ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE "GROWLER."

We have had two interesting documents forwarded us by James Grant, one of the oldest and most respected coachmen in Great Britain—from his physical resemblance and bluff good nature commonly known among his pals as "John Bull." He drove the first Road Car 'bus in 1881, and subsequently a hansom-cab. One paper is a full-page illustrated article from the *Daily Graphic* of June 6th, in which we are told that there is "New Hope for Cabby and Cab Horse." Shortly, the article stated that new and improved horse-drawn taxi-cabs were to be put on the streets. We were treated also to an illustration of one of the new taxi's competitors, in which was seated the Honorary Secretary, Dr. C. Rheinhardt. To stimulate subscriptions, it was stated that three ladies had contributed £100 each.

The second document is a booklet, entitled "Old Friends in Hard Times," written by Dr. Rheinhardt. Several illustrations showed the new style of cab—and there was, of course, the usual appeal for funds. It was also stated, amongst other things, that seven or eight hundred cab-drivers had applied for these vehicles. But will Dr. Rheinhardt tell us how many he has, or, for the matter of that, is ever likely to have, on the streets of London? We unhesitatingly say that it is cruel to raise false hopes in the hearts of poor old cabby. If the Doctor and his old lady friends really want some occupation, why don't they start a Society for supplying cab-horses with crutches?

"JOHN BULL'S" CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

AN APPEAL FOR A LITTLE CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE POOR.

We again make an appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, at the approaching Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the London poor. Upon previous occasions the response has been most gratifying, and we feel sure that the same will be the case again this year. First, we want money with which to buy orders upon local butchers, bakers, grocers, and others, enabling the recipients to obtain food and take it to their own homes for consumption, a course much preferable to crowding them into public buildings in the old-fashioned way. Every subscription will be duly acknowledged in our columns. Secondly, we want left-off clothing of all shapes and sizes. This we will have carefully sorted out by the hands of willing workers, and made into suitable "lots," corresponding with numbered orders which will be given by our helpers to those most in need of the things. Thirdly, we want toys for the little ones, to help to brighten their dismal homes at Christmas time. We can also do with boxes of oranges, sweets, fruit, crackers—in short, anything likely to bring a little happiness, if only for a few days, into the homes of the poor.

Our record offer—7,000 "Bullets" Prizes. See page 666.

DEFIED AND DEFILED.

TWO BOYS AND A BEAST.

There are certain people on this planet who believe that every two thousand years a great teacher arises. A number of followers of this cult—of whom the bulk reside in India—are therefore educating their children in case one of them should turn out to be a second Messiah. One of these parents, at least, has made a great mistake in choosing a special tutor for the problematical Redeemer—a Madrasee, named Narazaniah, having filed a petition in the Judge's Court of Chingleput to recover possession of his two sons, whom he confided for education to the care of Mrs. Annie Besant and Mr. C. W. Leadbeater. He alleges that his eldest boy has been defiled and renamed.

Mrs. Besant is the High Priestess of the Theosophical sect, and Leadbeater is her lieutenant. So long ago as 1909, we described this Leadbeater as "an individual who, instead of being permitted to work with decent men and women, should be tied to a cart-tail and flogged from Temple Bar to Aldgate Pump." We further described him as a "teacher of filth." Details of his precepts cannot, of course, be set forth in the public press, but it is notorious that so far back as 1906 the General Secretary of the American Section of the Theosophical Society drew attention by circular to the fact that rumours had for years been current in India, Ceylon and England with reference to Leadbeater's pernicious instruction to boys under his charge. A Committee of Enquiry, consisting of all the prominent Theosophists, was formed in London. Leadbeater admitted our charges, prior to the meeting addressing to the Chairman a letter of resignation; and he was allowed to sever his connection with the Society voluntarily.

Even this mild form of punishment did not meet with the approval of the Theosophists as a body, for immediately an agitation was set on foot to get the hound reinstated. Mrs. Besant took the attitude that his readmission could be allowed on his publicly repudiating his teaching. The result of this declaration was that many prominent members resigned. Mrs. Besant then wrote in the *Theosophist*, the official organ of the body, published in Adgar, Madras:—

> The General Council of the T.S. has decided by a majority that . . . "There is no reason why Mr. C. W. Leadbeater should not return, if he wishes, to his place in the Society which he has in the past served so well." . . . One of the difficulties in the investigation asked for by two members is that the charges are anonymous and second-hand—there is no first-hand accuser and no name of an accuser. Another reason against it is that the huge majority of the Society are sick of the turmoil caused by a few irreconcilables, and desire to see the Society at its proper work.

After giving some personal details and mentioning that Leadbeater had promised to discontinue his teachings, Mrs. Besant proceeded:—

> My loved and honoured friend and colleague knows how gladly I would invite him back earlier (earlier, that is to say, that February, 1910) if my promise did not stand in the way and render it impossible. But while I cannot reinstate, the highest authority in the T.S. has declared that there is no obstacle in his way if he chooses to return and more than one section even before this declaration had signified its wish to have the honour of enrolling him among its members.

Mrs. Besant's Mis-statements.

There is more than one statement here which is not in accordance with fact. For example, Mrs. Besant says that one of the difficulties of the investigation asked for is that the charges are anonymous and second-hand, Mrs. Besant must know that this is not so. The charges against Mr. Leadbeater were made by the father of one of his victims, who wrote to an official stating the facts and signing the letter! Mr. Leadbeater had never repudiated the teachings—*and practices*—with which he is charged. All that he has done, and that, as he says, out of deference to Mrs. Besant, is to undertake not to repeat such teachings.

Leadbeater, in our opinion, is not a fit person to be the guardian even of a pig; and so long as Mrs. Besant thinks fit to associate herself with him, she cannot expect the tenets of which she is so eloquent an exponent to make progress in a civilised country.

OLD KING COLE.

A MERRY OLD SOUL WHO MUST NOT LAUGH AT YOU.

The following advertisement recently appeared in a mornng paper:—

> Advertisers require immediately several smart, energetic men, as booklet distributing organisers, engage and take charge of men. Salary 30s. weekly, with early advancement. Must deposit £10 security while employed. Returnable.—Full particulars by letter only to R. E. King, 77, King's Road, Kingston, Surrey.

On the face of it, there appears here to be a decent job for someone, but when matters are looked into the appointment is far from a rosy one. "R. E. King," it seems, is connected with a firm carrying on business in Switzerland as football commission agents, under the jovial name of King, Cole and Co. A person who responded to the advertisement received the following circular letter:—

> The organisers' work consists in attending the Gates of League Matches of the 1st, 2nd, and Southern League, Northern League, Midland League, Lancashire League, Central, North Eastern and other Leagues in the North, and in the South the London League, Isthmian League, South Eastern League, Kent League, Corinthian League, etc. Each organiser is allowed certain clubs and certain ground to cover according to where he is in residence and best known and able to cover regularly and thoroughly to shew really good results. Each organiser is allowed to engage men to assist at all big matches (the number of which is named in weekly letter of instructions and necessary expenses enclosed) on Saturdays and during the week. During the remainder of the week, when no matches are being played, the organiser would be expected to personally attend the gates and otherwise of large works, Factories clubs, Inns, Theatres, Music Halls, Picture Palaces and other such crowds, also railway stations, barbers—in fact to use his own skill and judgment in getting rid of the booklets to bring the firm fairly good results to the best of his ability. Booklets are sent each organiser carriage paid to the nearest railway station straight from London. All staff communication is conducted from this address. . . . The Agreement enclosed herein contains all further particulars.

Now Old King Cole and Co., in Switzerland, are safe to their hearts' content, but, of course, they cannot carry on their business in this country without having agents over here, and the meaning of the advertisement seems to be that they require touts prepared to deposit £10 with them in order to cover the possible confiscation by the authorities of their literature, and to take all the risks of a prosecution. That these risks are grave is apparent to anyone who remembered the series of prosecutions a few months ago, which resulted in the infliction of very heavy fines, with the alternative of long terms of imprisonment, for doing exactly what the men now required are intended to do.

It must not be forgotten that, in the event of the police again interfering with these touts, it would of course be quite possible for the Merry Old Souls, in their safe Continental retreat, to regard the matter as entirely impersonal, and, jingling the cash which their dupes had collected for them, laugh impartially at both prosecutors and prisoners.

BULL'S BULLETS BOOMING.

SHOTS THAT WILL BRING DOWN TURKEYS.

Our Bullets Competition is still booming, and its unique success enables us to make one of the most attractive and generous offers ever known in connection with any competition. To begin with, we have increased our First Prize this week to £200, and in addition to our usual substantial cash prizes we have decided to give away during the next five weeks, 7,000 *Christmas Prizes*, consisting of

5,000 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, and

2,000 FINE SPECIALLY SELECTED XMAS TURKEYS.

There can be no doubt that "Bullets" have come to stay, and that ere long we shall have left all other competitions in the background.

"Bullets" is the *straight* Competition.

"Bullets" is still growing by leaps and bounds. See page 666.

KING KIPPER.

HIS NAVY AND THE "SPRAT-PIRATES."—A GRAVE DANGER.

From Fraserburgh and Peterhead in Scotland and even so far north as Wick, little steam-drifters come in their multitudes at this season of the year to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft "chasing the herring" From these remote places, from the Irish and English fishing ports and even from the House of Commons recently came interested parties to a great gathering in Yarmouth Town Hall, held to protest against the grave danger to the nation's food supply resulting from the use of the trawl-net. In explaining this menace of the trawler, we will describe the drift-net used by the toy-like steam-drifters and then compare it with the engines of destruction manipulated by the "Sprat-Pirates" on the larger steam-trawlers.

From immemorial time herrings have been caught in their millions at Yarmouth and Lowestoft by means of this drift-net, which is lowered from the boat and allowed to drift, kept perpendicular by an arrangement of weights, corks and bladders. If one could see it under water—a fish-eye view, so to speak—it would appear as a Gargantuan tennis net. The herrings in their blindness continue on their way swimmingly. When a full-sized fish gets his head through, he tries to withdraw it, but finds he is "caught by the gills."

THE HERRINGS' HERODS.

The mesh of the net, however, is of a size that allows all small fish and immature herring to swim through; to go on growing until they are also large enough to be caught—if they escape the sea-cannibals.

All herring thus captured are, then, edible and saleable and do not have to be thrown back into the sea dead or be used up as manure. Not so with the "Sprat-Pirates."

These with their trawl-nets adopt a plan which experts say will end, unless checked by speedy legislation, in totally depleting the grounds of fish and bringing a mighty industry to ruin. A slight idea of the extent of the East Coast herring-trade may be gathered from the fact that as many as 2,000 drifters sail from the harbours of Yarmouth and Lowestoft every day to the fishing-grounds, each one costing a matter of £2,000.

Vessels come from all parts of the Continent for cargoes of the fish; one vessel alone from Russia the other day carrying away 14,000 barrels of herring.

The trawl-net—which might be described as more of a jelly-bag than a fishing-net—drags along the ground, and consequently all is fish that comes into its mesh, and it generally manages to bring up, as well as the herring it is after, sprats, spawn and undersized and embryo fish of all kinds.

THREATENED FISH FAMINE.

As an expert has said, they destroy "sole and plaice in an embryonic condition in which the species cannot be distinguished." At the meeting above referred to, a large wholesale fish merchant said that tons of these small fish were thrown overboard from the trawlers—too small to bring ashore for sale.

Another expert said that he had seen in the heterogeneous mass which was washed out of the boxes in which herring were landed, thousands of fish no larger than whitebait.

Lord Claud Hamilton has stated that it is vitally necessary that the great centres of population should be made alive to what is going on, as there can be no doubt whatever that millions of immature fish are being destroyed annually by the trawlers, with the result of placing the whole future of these fisheries in jeopardy.

The trawler-owners are making money fast and furiously, but their method savours somewhat of burning down one's house to roast a pork chop. A Dutch skipper has said that, out of sixty boxes he took on a trawler, there were only four boxes of sizeable fish!

The whole of the remaining fifty-six boxes sold in Ymuiden (Holland) market for a sum equivalent to 1s. 1½d.!

Such is the question of the trawl *versus* the drift-net. It is to the nation's interest that the navy of "King Kipper" be delivered from the hands of the "Sprat-Pirates."

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXX.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A PILOT'S DAUGHTER'S PLIGHT.

A poor woman—mother of 4 children, deserted by her husband 7 years ago, when the youngest child was only 3 months old—pleads for assistance. Her father, when alive, was one of the oldest pilots in Glamorganshire, and since his death (her husband having eloped to South America with another woman) she has been solely dependent on her aged mother—who is 81, and whom she cannot leave to take work. She is now, however, practically starving, as there is no money to renew the stock of the small shop which they keep. The oldest child (a girl) is but 10. Unless some assistance be speedily forthcoming they will lose their little all, as they are threatened with seizure and eviction by the landlord. We sincerely hope that our appeal may be the herald of the dawning of a brighter day for them.

T. H. S. has kindly forwarded us a cheque for £5 for distribution amongst our Human Documents for the current year. With his consent, we shall give 10s. to each of the distressing cases which we publish between now and the end of the year, the balance being bestowed upon two of the most deserving prior "Documents," whose appeals have not met with adequate response.

The £10 which Mr. Gregory, the winner of our first "Bullets" Competition, has generously given to the Fund will, with his consent, be divided equally between CCXV., CCXVI., CCXI., CCXII., and CCXIII.—all thoroughly meritorious cases which have not received as much response as their necessities required.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXVII.—S. W., 10s.; L. B., 5s.; Mrs. A. C. G., 2s.; G. E. H., 2s. 6d.

CCXVIII.—Mrs. A. S. L., 2s. 6d.; G. E. H., 2s. 6d.; "Wray," 2s. 6d.; A. B. C., 5s.; "Hard Luck," 2s. 6d.; "Pat," 3s.

CCXIX.—P. G., 6d.; W. B., 5s.; "Ivy Mary," 1s.; E. H., 2s.; S. R., 1s.; J. H. N., 2s.; "Poor Turkey," 2s. 6d.; "Anon," 1s. 6d.; W. K., 5s.; "Competitor," 6d.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work.

LONDON.—Mr. E. G. Adams, Blue Anchor, Fenchurch Street, E.C., 1d.; Mr. C. H. Elliston, King's Arms, Moreland St., City Road, 10d.; Mr. S. Judges, Coach and Horses, Chiswell Street, E.C., 1d.; Mr. H. Ault, 7, Albany Street, Camberwell, S.E., 1d.; Mr. P. Brinkman, Bricklayers' Arms, Charlotte Street, Old Street, E.C., 1s. 6d.; The Britannia, 157, City Road, E.C., 1d.; Mr. H. Freits, 179, City Road, E.C., 1½d.; Mr. L. Abrahams, The Old Fountain, Baldwin Street, City Road, E.C., 2½d.; Mrs. Jezzard, Baptist's Head, St. John's Lane, Smithfield, 1s. 1½d.; Mr. J. H. Stribling, Carpenters' Arms, 105, King's Cross Road, 1s.; Mrs. R. Lyon, 40, Old Kent Road, S.E., 3d.; Mrs. G. Napper, Beresford Arms, Beresford Street, Camberwell, 4d.; Mr. A. Skinner, Crown and Anchor, 116, New Kent Road, S.E., 2½d.; Mr. F. Pavey, 63, Long Lane, S.E., 1½d.; Mr. W. R. Talbot, Borough Market, S.E., 1d.; Mr. F. Huggins, Brunswick Arms, Stamford Street, S.E., 2s. 10d.; Mrs. E. Marks, Archduke Charles, Rodney Road, S.E., 10d.; Mr. A. Huth, 94, East Street, Walworth, S.E., 2d.; Mr. W. H. Deathe, 1a, Marshalsea Road, Southwark, S.E., 2½d.; Mr. C. Balbes, 256, Camberwell Road, S.E., 2½d.; Mr. H. Ash, 156, Weston Street, Long Lane, Bermondsey, 4½d.

BIRMINGHAM.—Mr. T. H. Albrighton St. George's Tavern, Harford Street, 1s. 3½d.; Mr. J. Lowe, Baltic Inn, Hope Street, 11d.; Mr. Z. Bernstein, 5, Sherlock Street, 5d.; Mr. A. Turner, Albion Hotel, Edmund Street, 1d.

Total 13s. 5½d., which we have allocated to CCXVI.

Our First "Bullets" Prize is increased to £200 See page 666.

SHOP-KEEPING ENGLAND.

By a Sour Citizen.

One of the many rude things which Buonaparte said about his captors was that we are a "nation of shop-keepers." I am sometimes inclined to wish we were!

The more I study the Consular reports, the more amazed I am by the carelessness and incompetence which characterises our commercial dealings. To begin with, the most enterprising of our business houses scarcely ever possesses a clerk who has the faintest knowledge of any language except his own. Circulars are sent out to foreign firms not only in the English language, which, alas! is not yet universally understood, but giving English prices for English weights and measures. Then, it is a common habit not to supply the goods which strangers want, but to give them what we think they ought to have. For instance, I remember some years ago the Bulgarians ordered a large supply of blue cloth for their army, but an English firm sent out green cloth, with the comment that it was far more suitable for warfare. That kind of thing is still going on to-day.

Supporting Home Industries.

My own experience of shop-keeping in this country removes any surprise which might have existed in regard to the decline of foreign trade. Big shops and little shops alike are conducted on a system of hopeless confusion. Bills are sent in over and over again, long after they have been paid; or else, which is rarer, but not by any means unknown, they are not sent in at all. Let me give a few trivial instances. I used to deal with a big grocer near my house, paying cash for everything. One day the servant omitted to pay for a small parcel when it arrived, but I took the amount round next morning. It was only a few shillings, but day after day for nearly a week a messenger used to come from the grocer with a bill and instructions to wait. I went round to the shop, showed the receipt, and remonstrated. Fulsome apologies were tendered, but next morning a man came round again with the same bill and demanded payment!

Then, again, I was unfortunate enough to have to employ a plumber. He gave me an estimate, but the charges were by time, and I noticed that the workmen were extremely dilatory. The consequence was that my bill was much larger than I expected it to be, and I determined to remonstrate in a friendly way. But almost before I had had time to consider what would be a fair offer, the plumber came round himself and immediately assumed a hectoring tone. When I tried to explain my grievance very politely, he contradicted me flatly and was so insolent that I had to order him out of the house. To this he replied that he would not budge until he had received his money. I explained the law of trespass to him very kindly, but, as this had no effect, I had to send for a policeman to witness the man's ejection. It occurred to me that such behaviour was not likely to increase a tradesman's custom.

Saving Money and Losing Temper.

I could fill pages with examples of the unbusinesslike ways of large stores, which can only be prosperous through the greater stupidity of their smaller rivals. I have had by the same post three letters acknowledging a particular order. I have had urgent orders utterly forgotten for over a week, and then attended to when the need had ceased to exist. I have chosen goods myself and received something quite different in their place, sometimes much better, but more often much worse. When I have returned things which had not been ordered, I have found myself debited with the price of them, and endless research has been necessary to prove myself in the right. Apart from the pecuniary injury which must be suffered by people who keep no books, there is an incessant irritation in having to verify and dispute accounts at short intervals. Moreover, the disputes are not usually carried on with the courtesy which was common among tradesmen in the days of our fathers. We are treated in a peremptory, offensive way, such as is usually associated with Government offices. No doubt this is in anticipation of the Millennium, when all the means of production, distribution and exchange are to be in the hands of Government, and it will be considered a high favour to be allowed to buy anything at all, even at the most extortionate price.

SKETCHES IN COURT.

No. 3.—Sir Alfred Cripps, K.C.

By Taberna.

Not many men have been leading counsel in a matter where a sum of more than twenty millions sterling is at stake. But then all his life Sir Charles Alfred Cripps, K.C., has found himself in unusual positions and done unusual things. At the age of sixty he can look back upon an uncompleted career that has its own characteristic prominence.

He was, you may say, born to the law, for his father wore a silk gown before him. If "Who's Who" is to be believed he himself took silk when he was a boy of eighteen; which of course is absurd.

Sir Alfred is in many respects a counsel of the old school. That is not to say he is a Serjeant Buzfuz; on the contrary, few men of the same degree of acumen can be so suave without causing their good faith to be suspect. But in Court he is slow and deliberate, and his words come sometimes in such a tiny trickling stream that there is a story of casuists who solemnly considered whether there were pauses between the words or words between the pauses. His voice is thin but admirably clear; his manner is the Winchester and Oxford manner, mellowed a trifle perhaps by long association with the affairs of the Church and humanised by living in the country and farming for a hobby. A casual spectator, knowing nothing of the man, or an over-confident witness for the other side, might suppose that the "Now—er" which is heard so often during one of Sir Alfred Cripps' cross-examinations is due to some uncertainty of thought or to lack of familiarity with his brief; but he would almost invariably be wrong.

It is a mannerism, nothing more; just as his "For my purpose" amounts almost to a formula.

At the present time Sir Alfred Cripps may be found most days in the Railway and Canal Commission Court, where he is concerned for the National Telephone Co., Ltd., in a claim against His Majesty's Postmaster-General for £20,924,700. All around him are books with crimson covers and gold titles on the backs; books with green covers; books with orange covers; white papers, blue papers, fat volumes in black. The bench is strewn with them in toppling heaps, and thence they seem to have overflowed to the desk below; counsel's part of the Court is a solid mass of them, some of them on the desks, some under the desks, and more on the seats. Sometimes it inevitably happens that a book or a paper is mislaid, and the proceedings have to be delayed while Sir Alfred makes search for it with the assistance of juniors, clerks, and everybody else with nothing in particular on hand at the moment. So the arbitration jogs on, at a cost of goodness knows how much a day; and already there have been nearly fifty days.

In the mass of details—of "fundamental costs," of "red figures" and "green figures," and so forth—only one thing is clear. That is the set of large scale maps of the British Isles hanging on the wall facing the witness box. The Judge (Mr. Justice A. T. Lawrence) gives you the impression of making tremendous and unceasing efforts to grasp what is going on. He covers his eyes for thought. He rests his chin on his hand. He leans sideways in his chair to consult Mr. Gathorne-Hardy or Sir James Woodhouse. From time to time everybody asks everybody else whether they see the point. "As I understand you, Sir Alfred, the position is this——."

He makes himself clear. His own business knowledge and aptitude for the elucidation of commercial operations of high magnitude blazes a trail for the others. As an intellectual recreation Sir Alfred Cripps is unequalled.

Now is the time to try "Bullets." See our remarkable offer on page 666.

Can you answer these questions?

Every man engaged in business ought to know the answers to these questions. DO YOU know them all?

YOU will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet, you will agree, they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So—if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

20 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F.A.S." & "G.A"?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "lime-washed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. What is the rule about doubtful debts in assessing income tax?
12. Do you know how to take out a patent?
13. Must a receipt be in writing to be valid?
14. What exactly is a "special settlement"?
15. How and when can you claim for loss of an article sent by registered post?
16. What is the difference between a factor and a broker?
17. How would you draw up a selling scheme?
18. How does a secured creditor in bankruptcy abandon his security?
19. Is a seaside shopkeeper liable for rates in the winter when his shop is shut up?
20. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

And that is why the "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" is so valuable a work—because it contains information about every point in business life. With it by your side you can answer any question about business that is put to you. For instance, you can answer all the questions that you have just asked yourself. You will find the full purpose of a ledger in the article on Ledgers, Vol. III., page 294. Under "Abbreviations" you will find the meaning of every symbol and sign that is used in business to-day. The third question you will solve by looking up the fine article on the Basic Idea in Business, and so on with all the other questions; and, in fact, with any question about anything relating to business. Thus, in question 19, you will find in a moment that the shopkeeper is liable for rates for the whole time (see Vol. III., page 26).

How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia" and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of JOHN BULL may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

Written by Successful Business Men.

All the information you get from the "Business Encyclopædia" is up-to-date and reliable, for its contributors include many of the most successful business men of the day, among them being such famous men as Richard Burbidge (Managing-Director, Harrods Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), John Lawrie (Managing-Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing-Director J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), Sir Thomas Dewar (Managing Director of J. Dewar and Sons), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), H. Simonis (Director of the *Daily News and Leader*), etc., etc.

TWO OPINIONS.

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HEREDITARY RAILWAY LINES.

By Paul Elgood.

The A. U. & N. Railway needs no descriptive paragraph. The public know it well. It stands out across the map of England like a tree, and, in fact, the officers can see in it a sort of genealogical tree, from the various points of which many a deceased kinsman spreads his benign influence. When a baby boy of the clan is born, he is nominated to a post even before he is christened.

The interests of tradesmen and manufacturers are laughed at. Let England sink, shareholders starve, profits are the family's affair. No officer ever retires from the A. U. & N. Railway. When he is too feeble to totter to the offices, a bath chair is put at his disposal.

But the most inspiriting thing about the A. U. & N. Railway is its capacity of yielding fresh sinecures. To-day it is a Superintendent, to-morrow finds the need of an Assistant to him; then that Assistant needs an Assistant.

Superior Persons.

Perhaps I ought to mention that the Superior Clerk was instituted for the purpose of drawing Senior Wranglers to the service. Men to make telling speeches, not before public gatherings, but committees of directors, are needed. Here is an instance. An engine on the trip to Jobberford consumes, owing perhaps to a head wind, an extra two hundredweigh of coal at 7s. 6d. a ton. The official responsible is expected to appear in evening dress before the proper committee for examining into that extravagance, and in a speech of twenty or thirty minutes to show how the loss arose.

Beyond doubt "strict economy" does pervade the system. And the results have this satisfaction: what the nephew does actually save goes to swell the salary of the uncle, or to create a job for the first cousin.

A man is knocked out of, say, the A section, and transferred to B, ostensibly through the Returns. The A Department immediately shows a saving in working expenses. Eyes are off the B section for the time being. Sometimes two or three men are thus transferred, especially on a new office being found for a nephew; then enormous saving is shown, till by the end of the year increments are pouring down as thick as autumnal leaves, while shareholders are promised halcyon days. If Uncle Fred fares badly one year compared with Uncle George in economical legerdemain, positions are reversed the following.

Common Clay.

There is a real saving sometimes. A competent man at 25s. a week is replaced by another at 16s. The same amount of work is got through. Goods are pitched into the wagons anyhow by these full-blooded youngsters. Claims arise, and are paid (when it is impossible to repudiate them). Still, there is the saving shown on labour.

But the most edifying feature is the docility of the real workers. There is an unique method of keeping them quiet. The headship of a Sub-Department carries a maximum of £100 a year. That magnificent salary is the goal for which all strive, and they cheerfully whistle "Rule Britannia" at their desks while waiting for it. They are further told that any of them might rise to General Manager. Certainly there is the chance; life is all chance, and an epidemic might one day carry off the entire family.

The best thing of all, the finest bit of wirepulling, occur at the Chief Officer's Annual Staff Dinner. The men gaily subscribe. They are marshalled by the family delegates to the tables, where they sit beneath the Chief Officer, the Directors and friends, like the vassals of old at their lord's table. Complimentary speeches from the Directors follow, then the lion of the evening, the Chief, is called on to respond. He is greeted with ringing cheers, and the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow." It plainly shows what wonderful loyalty he commands at starvation wages. The man is a genius, and another £100 a year is clapped on his salary.

Like most concerns nowadays, run on similar lines, it begins to feel the pinch. Still, there is hope of Parliament doing something. An increase of Rates all round would enable the storm to be weathered, and keep the Company from inevitable liquidation.

"WHEN WE WERE BOYS."

Confessions by Men who have Risen.

In emulation of the enterprise of an exhaustive and exhausting contemporary, we are happily in the position to publish the following further confessions of living celebrities as regards the degree of brilliance with which they shone at school:—

Mr. C. F. G. Masterman.

Surely it is scarcely necessary for me to say that, if not exactly brilliant, I was at any rate a saintly boy at school. No child of equal years could have been more charitable, in word and thought, if not in deed—for my pocket money was limited. One of my greatest delights was to astonish the masters by selecting one or other of the greatest scoundrels in history and writing an apologetic and exculpatory essay upon his character. Only once did I incur corporal punishment, and that was when I whitewashed the matron's cat, which had been caught in the act of killing the usher's canary. That was the first, but by no means the last occasion on which I received punishment for wielding the whitewash brush.

Mr. H. H. Asquith.

At school I was neither what may be called brilliant nor dull. I early learned the lesson of obedience, which has served me so well in after life (notably in regard to my relations with my friend John Redmond), and I can recollect only one occasion when I called down upon me the master's displeasure, and that was when, in answer to a question, I retorted, "Wait and see!"

Mr. David Lloyd George.

I am bound to say that the only thing in which I excelled at school was arithmetic. I could do anything with figures. To this faculty I owe the fact that to-day I am able to give the toiling masses Ninepence for Fourpence. At the same time, botany had a strong interest for me; but this taste, unfortunately, led to my one chastisement by the head master, when I had inadvertently referred to the apple which occasioned the fall of our first parents as "this rare and refreshing fruit."

Lord Haldane.

Before I left school I am convinced I had forgotten more about Kant's system of Philosophy than the master had ever known. I have found Kant very useful to me since.

Mr. Alexander Ure.

I am free to affirm that I shone among my schoolfellows as the most determined and successful opponent to George Washington's celebrated system of ethics.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw.

I was the school's most dazzlingly brilliant scholar.

Sir Edward Carson.

I was, at any rate, a brilliant fighter at school. I would take any of the boys on for an orange, and fight them single-handed, in my ulster.

SPIES.

As Christmas time is now so near,
It caused us no surprise,
When in a newspaper we read
That *Turkey* will *mince* (*s*)*pies*.

Greatrex Newman.

JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The work of the League is about to be actively resumed. The Report to date will be circulated at the end of the present year, together with a revised constitution; and during the Spring the President will address a series of public meetings in various parts of the country. Local Secretaries are requested to make these facts known amongst their members, and to make all necessary preparations for the forthcoming campaign.

2,000 Xmas Turkeys as "Bullets" prizes. See page 666.

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This remarkable fact is due entirely to OXO's meat concentration and ease of assimilation. OXO is so much better than ordinary meat diet because *none of the strength* it creates is lost in the effort of digestion—it cannot cause food fatigue."

* * *

OXO helps other foods to digest. It possesses the feature of being able to break up and render soluble other foods, which without OXO are difficult to digest. OXO creates stomachic solution which is perfect digestion. Much of the energy contained in a glass of milk, for instance, is lost in digestion, but by adding OXO to it you obtain full food value. This applies to all foods—they are made vastly more nourishing when accompanied by OXO.

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THE DOCTORS' CHOICE.

ANOTHER PLOUGHDENISM.

FARMER: "Didn't you say when I engaged you that you could hold a plough?"
BRIGHT AGRICULTURIST: "Sure I did, master. But how could I hold it with two horses pulling it away?"

BEHIND THE SCENES.

By M. Clement Scott.

The Palace Theatre has not been having a particularly cheery time of it during the last week. Professor Reinhardt's "Venetian Night" was pronounced to be *tres chaude etoffe* by the powers that be when the dress rehearsal took place, and was prohibited accordingly.

Now, however, that the ban has been removed, and the Lord Chamberlain's "requirements" attended to, all is well. "The Venetian Night" is going along as merrily as marriage bells. Yes, and that is what all the trouble was over—marriage—a bold, bad man—and—no, no—I won't tell tales out of school. Mum's the word.

What a pretty show at the Hippodrome! "The Blue House," the new musical "Laundriette," is full of fun and excellent dancing, and Miss Shirley Kellogg is one of the daintiest American importations I have seen these many moons. "The Blue House" is a bright entertainment, and Mr. Bert Coote the quaintest thing going in comedians of the dude type.

By the way, there is talk of the Beecham Opera Company going into the Lane theatre—Old Drury—in the early springtime. Negotiations have been spoken of, but nothing definite is settled at the moment.

I hear that pretty and clever Peggy Primrose, having completed her Stoll-Gulliver contract, is likely to be seen in the role of principal girl in one of the London pantomimes. I have always thought that Mr. Arthur Collins missed a good chance in not securing her.

No Drury Lane drama at Easter after all. This great sensation is to be kept safely stored until the autumn; and, good news—Miss Fanny Brough will probably be sufficiently restored to health by then to take the fine fat part which has been written for her in the huge production Arthur Collins intends to provide at the Lane, aided and abetted by those two indispensable authors, Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton.

"Instinct," at the Duke of York's Theatre, may be very dramatic, but dear, oh dear, why are these surgical details allowed to be discussed upon the stage? Isn't it terrible enough to know that "The Knife" is used in real life to slice people about, without seeing an operation all but take place on the platform of a theatre?

Heavy odds there will always be someone in the audience who has been tortured to agony over the sufferings of his best friend, his wife, his mother, or his child, and has sat silently in the room below counting the minutes waiting for the surgeon's verdict. "Instinct" will recall every second of so ghastly a scene. It made me shudder with pain. I have passed through the ordeal, and I know.

What a relief to turn to the bewitching comedy of J. M. Barrie and to the enchanting acting of Irene Vanbrugh as Mrs. Page. There is another small gold mine waiting for Miss Vanbrugh in the halls, if she is anxious to book dates for "Rosalind." Mr. Barries' play, following "Instinct" at the Duke of York's, is a little gem, better even that his "Twelve Pound Look," if that is possible.

2,000 Xmas Turkeys as "Bullets" prize. See page 666.

The Ideal Family Medicine.

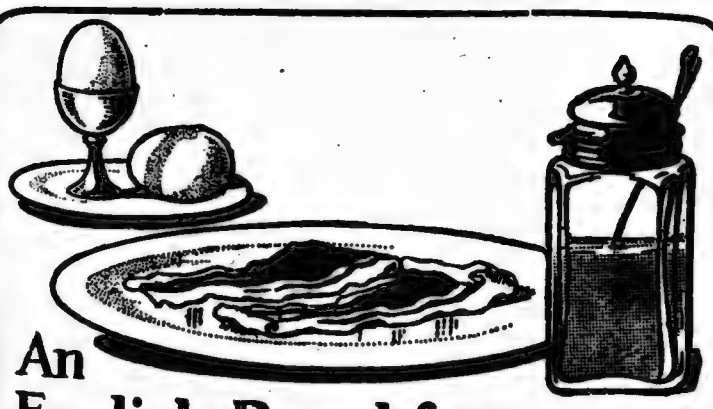
For nearly half-a-century Mother Seigel's Syrup has been the unfailing family medicine for the prevention and cure of stomach and liver troubles, and the ready means of recovering and maintaining GOOD HEALTH. Mother Seigel's Syrup has a gentle, tonic action upon the digestive organs—the stomach, liver and bowels—toning and strengthening them so that they can do their work effectively, and obtain from the food you eat all the nourishment required to keep you strong and vigorous. Mother Seigel's Syrup, by removing stomach, liver and kidney troubles, by keeping the blood pure, brings the glow of radiant health to the pale cheeks of anaemic girls, strengthens weak and growing boys, and makes adults feel fit and strong. It banishes pains after eating, headaches, biliousness, bad breath, giddiness, sleeplessness, wind on the stomach, and languor. If you suffer from any of the symptoms here described, you should at once profit by the experience of others and take Mother Seigel's Syrup for your case to-day. It is good for father, good for mother, good for all the family. Test it for yourself to-day. It will make you fit and well!

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

THE GREAT DIGESTIVE TONIC AND REGULATOR.

PREPARED FROM ROOTS, LEAVES AND BARKS.

The 2/6 bottle contains three times as much as the 1/1½ size. Also in tablet form, price 2/9.



An English Breakfast.

For breakfast, the pot of freshly mixed Colman's Mustard is as essential as the bacon and the eggs. Pungent but never fiery, Colman's Mustard acts as an incentive to appetite from the moment you put it on your plate; while its warmth aids digestion.

Colman's D.S.F. Mustard

S.H.B.

DISTRESSING FITS.

Sufferers from Epilepsy and Fits can be treated at home by Mr. J. Gilbert Dale. No Bromide of Potassium or poisons used. Cases of over 30 years' standing have been cured. Interesting valuable treatise sent free if you make application at once to Mr. O. Gilbert Dale's Secretary, 32, Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W. 'Phone No. 5,341 Mayfair.—ADVT.

To double your pay is not a dream, it is a possibility

Do you ever realise that whether your present pay be 30/-, £3, or £5 a week it is possible for you to double it? That many men with I.C.S. help have reached that mark, and higher? That the International Correspondence Schools have enabled thousands of men to double and treble their pay?

I.C.S. students report salary-increases received because their employers learned they were I.C.S. students. Example:—

"I recently received a rise in my salary of 20 per cent., which was due to the fact that I told my employer that I was taking lessons from you."

NORMAN A. J. MAGGS, Kensington, W.

Be ambitious. Send the Enquiry Coupon for all information of *your* chances in any occupation. References to students in your own district. Success has started for many with the sending of this Coupon. Why delay *your* success?

"The way to Better Pay is the I.C.S. way"
—Over 170,000 I.C.S. students are convinced.

Better Pay Coupon

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd.

Dept. 337 K International Bldgs., Kingsway, London, W.C.

Please explain, without any obligation on my part, how I can qualify for Better Pay in the position, trade or profession, or gain a knowledge of the subject before which I have marked X (or in the one stated here .....)

—Engineering (*state which*)	—Motor
—Chemistry	—Advertising
—Architecture	—Modern Languages
—Building	—Business Training

Over 180 Courses to choose from.

Name.....

Address.....

OPEN LETTERS POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Dr. Woodrow Wilson.

MR. PRESIDENT,—Though I did not take a huge interest in your election, I suppose I may congratulate you on being the least offensive of the three candidates for the Yankee Presidency. It is something that we may hear no more of the proposed swindle with regard to Panama, and I look to you for common-sense about tariffs and trusts. All the same, I do not much like the look of you with your chronic sneer and hard unfriendly face. With regard to that, however, you were almost disarming when you wrote:—

As a beauty I am not a star;
There are others more handsome by far.
But my face, I don't mind it,
For I am behind it!
The people in front get the jar!

You have been described as a "fun-loving Puritan," which is rather a contradiction, for no Puritan ever had a sense of humour beyond the kind of horse-play which led Cromwell to throw ink about when signing his Sovereign's death-warrant. So far as I can see, your best joke is to compel your guests to drink water because you happen to be a teetotaler yourself. That *is* funny!

JOHN BULL.

To Edward Sydney Fletcher, Esq., Lansdown Place, Cheltenham.

SIR,—I think you may fairly congratulate yourself on the fact that, after the address of Mr. Justice Ridley in your trial at the Gloucester Assizes, the jury found you "guilty of negligence, but not sufficient to amount to manslaughter," or rather to woman slaughter, for which you were indicted. That you did run down this woman by negligent driving of your car as she was turning a corner there can be no doubt. It was proved that there was abundance of room for you to steer clear, and though there was some conflict of testimony as to the rate of speed at which you were travelling, the fact that you ran into the rear of the bicycle when you had so much room to turn suggests that you were either travelling at a pace which made your car uncontrollable at the moment of vital emergency, or that you were utterly careless in your look out.

But I have hopes from this case, sir. I trust that the publicity given to it will teach other motorists the much-needed lessons of courtesy, vigilance, prudence, and, let me say, justice on the public roads. The King's highway is for all. Cycles especially are so frail and their balance is so precarious that it is a dangerous iniquity for motor-cars to force them into side ruts and to the edges of ditches. Thousands of men and women who used to find on country roads strength and pleasure for their nerve-racked bodies have had to give up cycling from this fear of motor-car drivers.

It is scandalous that it should be so. It is in their own interests that motorists should not take advantage of their privileges, but should treat all other users of the roads as they in similar case, would expect to be treated themselves. Their motto should be "Live and Let Live."

JOHN BULL.

To the Bishop of London.

DEAR GLOOMY,—In addressing a large gathering of freshmen at the Mansion House you are reported to have said:—"If we can get the (White Slave) Bill through we shall get the power for years to grapple with the 25,000 men who are living on girls in London." May I ask where you obtained your information as to the number of *souteneurs?* You will pardon me saying so, but you have made a very wild statement. Again: how will the new Bill help? If you know one of these parasites, give information to the police—or for goodness sake hold your peace.

JOHN BUL

To Alderman T. F. Plowman, His Worship the Mayor, Bath.

DEAR YOUR WORSHIP,—At the last meeting of the city Council there was a natural desire among the members to let each other fall softly. Never, surely, has everybody forgiven everybody else with such alacrity; never, surely, has Councillor tumbled over Alderman in such haste to make that open confession which is said to be good for the soul! The spectacle may have been ludicrous, but the result must have been blessed; for is not it written that there is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety-and-nine just persons that need no repentance?

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Mayor, that the City Auditors caught most of the members in an unpropitious moment of commercial innocency. They discovered that certain stores—to wit, mackintoshes—had been purchased by members of the Corporation from the Surveyor's Department. The Scavenging Committee having decided to purchase some mackintoshes for the men, the goods were so admirable that Aldermen and Councillors seem to have rushed at them like women at a bargain sale and bought them up wholesale and retail, as one man.

If the Auditors had not found it out, the transaction would have been covered up with as profound a silence as ever wrapped the dead in sleep; but, being found out, some of the Councillors, as a certain sort of people always do in such circumstances, put the blame on somebody else. You remember that our old friend Adam did it in Eden. "The woman gave me of the tree," said he, "and I did eat."

Well, I suppose it is all right. But explanations can be too elaborate; and every man who starts explaining things in this world is pretty sure to get exhausted sooner or later. You will therefore be good enough to advise your colleagues to steer clear in future of transactions with Corporation departments which need explanations. All's well that ends well, but take it from me that seldom has innocency clothed itself with such garments of suspicion. To you my compliments. You may stand yourself a drink at the pump room.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., President, Local Government Board, London.

DEAR BATTERSEA,—Though I am generally in favour of the new Regulations of the Board, intended to secure for the public a pure supply of milk and cream, there is a point at which they seem to drift into the ludicrous and absurd. For instance, a Liverpool correspondent informs me that for several years past he has had his dinner sent into his place of business from one of the large catering firms of the city. This meal has always included some sort of fruit and cream, and a pot of tea and milk. Since the issue of the new Regulations, however, the caterers have informed him that they can no longer supply cream with his dinner, as this would be contrary to the clause in that case made and provided.

Now, John, while one may properly bless a paternal Local Government Board intent on securing for him an unsophisticated cream for his dinner, he may not less properly curse them for preventing his having any cream at all; and this, I may tell you in strict confidence, is what my correspondent proceeds to do with a robust enthusiasm which offers a challenge even to your right honourable self in your moments of greatest industry. The Regulations permit milk to be sent out with meals and consumed off the premises, but not cream.

Oh dear, oh dear, my dear Battersea, what are we coming to?

JOHN BULL.

To Duke of Abruzzi, Rome.

Have taken note rumour intention Triple Alliance make you King Albania. Delicate question. Servia offers Albanians a sovereign; Alliance offers only Italian crown.

BULL.

To Hopkins, Stipendiary Magistrate, Westminster.

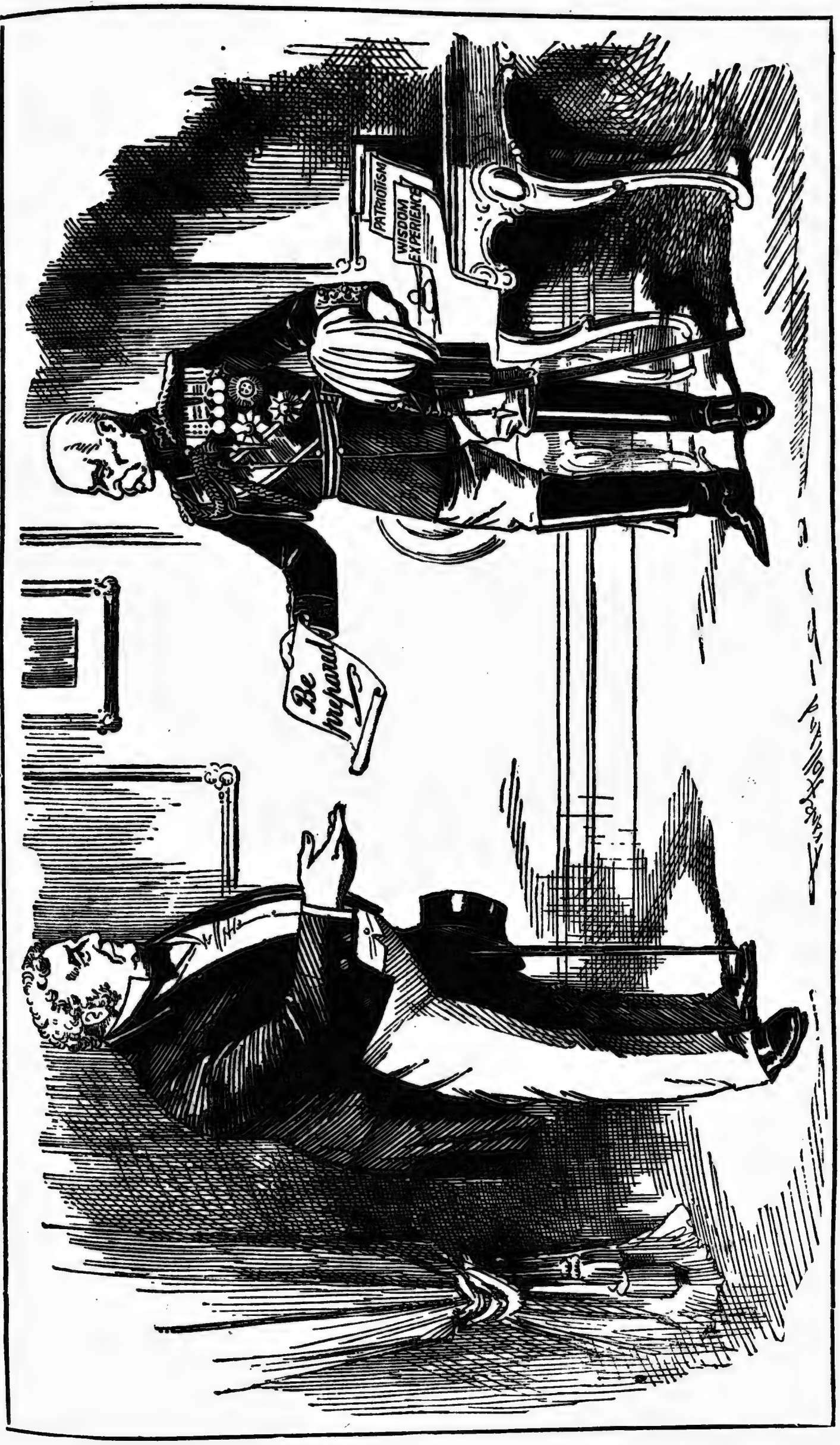
Approve your decision to send all drunken chauffeurs proved driving public danger to gaol without option. They don't deserve any consideration whatever.

BULL.

1,000 Christmas gifts for "Bullets" Competitors. See page 666.

FOREWARNED!

"Be wise to-day; 'tis madness to defer."



"NOW TO FOREARM!"

LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

[Being communications from a young person to her friends and relations.]

By Moore Anking.

Nantypwllarny,
Rhwdudlangoch.

My Dear Bert,—Don't know if you've heard the news about Aunt Margaret. Very ill, poor dear, and having no end of a rough time. The diss-pensary doctor says she may change with the moon, but he can't say for deffnit. He told mother that what is to be will be, and said on account of auntie being so weak they were filter-ing the fizzic, so's to give the diss-pensary a helping hand.

He said, too, that Auntie wasn't like a per-son in the bloom of youth. He wasn't prepared to deny that she still retained a cer-tain amount of bloom, but the youth had perished.

Of course, dearie, aunt's been on the wither for years and years, cenchries almost, conse-quently she's become very much reduced. On one of his visits, the doctor threw the bed-clothes back but couldn't find auntie, so he called out for ma. When she came, he pointed to the bed and shreeked, Where's the patient? Ma fumbled about and soon found her. The blessid doctor had turned the sheets over at the wrong page.

Mother says I better come home right away, it being more than she can do to watch everybody, and since it's got known that auntie can't reck-kernise them, friends come every day and sit about the place, waiting for the end. Some of them are such very old ack-waintances that they don't seem to remem-ber who they've come to see till the per-son at the corner shop writes the name down for them.

Mother says auntie's home is dis-appearing bit by bit. Seems like a prov-vidence she took a few things herself while there was time. One lady visitor must have took away the sofa she was sitting on. Any-way, mother couldn't find it after she got up. So you can guess the state ma's in, can't you?

Then the sick visitor from the loan club—the Friendly Females—comes round twice in every twenty-four hours so's to make sure that aunt's not viol-ating the rules, she not being allowed to gamble, fight, or go for walks in the country without showing prop-per cause for so doing. One lady who came from the society was heard to say that aunt wasn't to be trusted over-much, because people who fell ill just before the share-out were mean enough to do worse things if they got the chance.

Mother says that what with the sani-terry people and one thing and another, it ain't half cheerful. I s'pose she don't feel equal to so much de-light, that's why she wants me to share it.

The girls here seem to think I shall get marrid this time home. They keep asking me if I'm going to put the banns up, just as if they'd any right to know what's going to be put up or taken down. You wouldn't bleeve, dear, what a lot of Nosey Parkers there are here. I'm sure I could fill a book with the things I've found out about them.

I s'pose if Aunt Margaret's deter-mined not to stay on earth any longer, we shall have to look into the fewcher when we meet, and see what's best to be done.

And now, dear, as I've got to pack up and so forth, I must ask you to excuse any more this time. One thing, the train won't travel half quick enough—not if it flies. I shall be looking out for you at every station.

x x x Ever with fondest love, your own x x

Jane Ann.

The Best Way to Learn Foreign Languages.—No one nowadays can afford to be without a knowledge of French and German; these languages are indispensable, alike from a literary, conversational and commercial point of view. Even a knowledge of Spanish is now acceptable, and becoming more so every day, as South America develops. Everyone who wants to pick up one or more of these languages quickly, cheaply, and easily, should write to Hugo's Institute in Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., for particulars of their Postal Courses.

A Lay Preacher

Brain Fag, Nervous Exhaustion—

Just a *change of opinion* was enough to give Mr. W. King his present prosperity, for he realised in the nick of time that *his* way was *not* curing his brain-fag and nervous exhaustion, so he tried the Phosferine way. Mr. King's method was to *ignore* his despondency and feeling of collapse and persuade himself there was nothing unusual in the painful fatigue the lightest effort to work cost him, until, as he steadily *got worse*, he resolved to drop his own opinion and see what Phosferine could do. The result was so astonishingly beneficial, even after a *few* doses, that the brain-fag and nervous exhaustion ceased entirely, enabling him to do *more* work than before and yet not feel the strain. This remarkable advantage is seen in the extraordinary energy and vigour of Mr. King's public speaking, and so amazingly have his prospects improved since his speedy recovery that he declares he *had* to come forward with the evidence of the magnificent benefit he derived from Phosferine.

Quite Gone—Never Return.

Mr. W. J. King, School House, Trumpington Road, Forest Gate, E., writes:—"I am writing to add my name to the list of those people who have found Phosferine to be the Greatest of all Tonics. Some time back I was very much run down through overstrain, brought on by incessant bodily exercise and mental application. The usual tendency of mankind is to give up some of their work, have a rest, and at the same time take medicine, so I endeavoured to *keep going on without seeking advice*, but as I was *getting worse* I found *that* policy would not do. Having heard many friends speak about Phosferine, and one in particular offering me some, I decided to give it a trial. Purchasing a 2s. 6d. bottle, I began to doctor myself. The result not only astonished me, but others also noticed how much better I was, even although I had only taken a *few* doses. I found I could do the same amount of work *easier*, and at present am able to do *more* than before and yet not feel the strain. I have a good deal of public speaking, and I find an occasional dose of Phosferine is a great benefit."—May 28th, 1912.

PHOSFERINE

GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	INFLUENZA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	HYSTERIA
BRAIN-FAG	SLEEPLESSNESS	EXHAUSTION
LASSITUDE	PREMATURE DECAY	MALARIA
INDIGESTION	ANAEMIA NEURITIS	NERVOUSNESS

And all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

The Royal Tonic.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands to

The Royal Family
H.I.M. The Empress of Russia
H.I.M. The Dowager Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Greece
H.M. the King of Spain
The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

Warning to the Grey-haired.

HOW GREYNESS MAGNIFIES YOUR AGE AND MAKES OTHER PEOPLE THINK YOU FAR OLDER THAN YOU REALLY ARE.

Remarkable Scientific Discovery which Renews Your Hair's Colour—can be Tested by You To-day FREE.

A REMARKABLE scientific discovery which permanently renews the colour of grey or white hair can be tested by every reader of this article to-day—free of charge.

The name of this discovery is "Astol," and it has been discovered by that eminent hair specialist, Mr. Edwards, the discoverer of the world-famous "Harlene for the Hair" and "Harlene Hair-Drill."

All hair is apt to become faded in time unless its colouring functions are scientifically attended to, as with "Astol."

Nowadays, such is the stress and strain of modern life, the "time" at which greyness begins to appear on the heads of men and women alike is a much "earlier time" than it used to be.

Men and women still in their "twenties" often become grey-haired; if not entirely, at least partially. And every grey hair makes you look older than you really are. Every grey hair magnifies your apparent age.

You will be glad, therefore, to learn that "Astol," by bringing back all the lost colour to grey or white hair, makes you look many years younger and greatly improves the looks of every man and woman who tries it—as you can try it to-day free of cost.

One of the worst results of Hair-Greyness is the way it magnifies your age in other people's eyes. You may not notice that your hair is getting grey on top, or at the back and sides of your head. But other people will. You may think it a little matter yourself. But others who know you magnify it. Your grey hairs (even when there are only a few of them) catch the eye of people who are talking to you. And they remark to others: "So-and-so is pretty old. Getting quite grey, you know!" Don't let this be said of you. The new discovery of "Astol" (discovered by Mr. Edwards, the founder of "Harlene Hair-Drill") quickly and naturally renews the lost colour in grey hair, and makes you look years younger. Try it to-day FREE by using the form printed below.

Others see our Greyness more than we do.

Men and women in whose hair greyness has already begun to make its appearance should take warning at once. The trouble is that so many do not heed the danger until it is almost too late to avert it.

Why is this?

Because, usually you cannot see for yourself how very grey you are looking. As Robert Burns has told us, we do not possess the gift of seeing ourselves as others see us.

At the back of our heads some hairs have turned grey.

We cannot see them every time we look in the mirror, and because we cannot see them we ignore them. They do not catch our eyes, and we think, therefore, that they do not catch the eyes of others.

Fatal mistake!

Those grey hairs which we do not heed stand out most prominently in the eyes of others.

Your Social and Business Handicaps.

Every time we meet them they notice the greyness, and think—and say—"How grey he (or she) is getting; must be getting on in years." In their eyes we have become prematurely aged. All through those fatal grey hairs which so magnify our ages.

Social and business handicaps follow. The woman with grey or getting grey hair finds herself regarded as *passée*. She gets left out of enjoyable things. People look upon her as one of an elder generation, not as one of themselves, as she really is.

In business, again, men (and women, too) find greyness a very great handicap. Employers are on the look out for energetic youth. They are prejudiced against grey hairs.

"Astol," by giving to its user a spruce, smart, youthful look, has already been the means of gaining promotion and desirable appointments for men and women who otherwise would have had "no chance."

No reader need look older than he or she really is. This is the result of the discovery of "Astol," a free trial of which can be made to-day. "Astol" quickly renews the lost colour in grey or white hair.

"Astol" cures total and long-standing greyness.

"Astol" brings back colour to hair grey at the temples or sides.

"Astol" renews the colour of hair grey in patches and streaks.

"Astol" checks every sign of greyness directly it makes its appearance and enables the hair to retain its colour.

"Astol" brings back the colour to hair gone grey for years.

"Astol," by renewing your hair's colour, makes you look many years younger, taking from five to fifteen years from off your apparent age.

No Dye, but a Natural Colour-Renewer.

Mr. Edwards is anxious that it should be known that "Astol" is in no sense of the word a dye or artificial colouring preparation. It is a method of bringing back the hair's real *natural* colour in a *natural* way, just as under favourable conditions the foliage of trees and plants will become richer and brighter and greener.

Renew your hair's colour with "Astol," and no one will suspect it has ever been grey or required any such colour-tonic at all.

Make this FREE "At Home" Test To-day.

Mr. Edwards has decided to send a free trial supply to every reader who fills up the following coupon and sends it (with 2d. in stamps to pay the postage).

Having tried "Astol," and discovered its marvellous colour-renewing power, you can obtain a further supply from your chemist or stores in 2s. 9d. and 4s. 6d. bottles, or direct and post free from "Astol for Grey Hair," 104, High Holborn, London, W.C.

But first of all don't on any account miss this great opportunity of making a home trial of "Astol," free of charge by means of this coupon, which you should fill up and post to-day.

Free Hair-Colour Renewing.

TO "ASTOL FOR GREY HAIR," 104, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

I would like to make a free test of the "Astol" method of curing Greyness by renewing the hair's lost colour by natural means. Please forward a trial supply of "Astol" to the following address. (Enclose 2d. in stamps for postage and packing to any address in the world.)

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

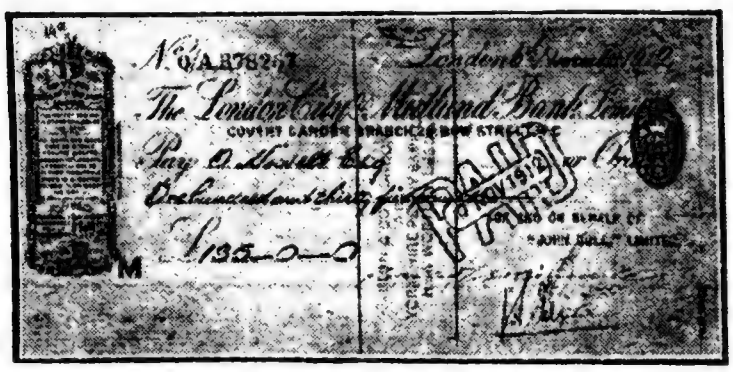
JOHN BULL. Nov. 16.

MRS. BLARNEY-GUSHINGTON (effusively): "Oh! Professor, I'm so disappointed that I missed your wonderful lecture last night. Everybody tells me it was simply an intellectual treat."
THE PROFESSOR: "However did they come to say that, dear lady? The lecture, you know, was postponed."

OUR THIRD BULLETS WINNER.

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO WIN £135.

When interviewed, Mr. Orlando Nowell—the Armley winner of the first prize in our third Bullets' Competition—was still in the flush of success. "My feelings," said he, "on learning that I had won £135 were, to use the hackneyed phrase, 'more easily imagined than described.' Until the commencement of Bullets a few weeks ago, I had not taken much interest in such things. However,


The London City & Midland Bank Ltd.
COVENT GARDEN BRANCH 26 BOW STREET W.C.
Pay O. Nowell Esq
One hundred and thirty five pounds
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
"JOHN BULL" LIMITED
£135

when JOHN announced his first competition I at once made up my mind to have a weekly shot, never dreaming of course, that my third attempt would bring me the huge prize of £135. I should like to say how much I admire your system of reading every coupon twice, and further, your promptitude. I received my cheque within twenty-four hours of the result being published."

Mr. Nowell is a single man and has been employed for twenty years at one of the largest engineering firms in Leeds. He has been a reader from the first number.

LIBERTY AND LICENCE OF THE PRESS.

SHOULD DIVORCE CASES BE REPORTED?

By the time this issue is in the hands of readers, the long-promised Report of the Divorce Commission should have been published. The majority of the Commissioners are understood to have recommended the principal reforms advocated by Mr. Bottomley in the Bill which he introduced into the House of Commons two or three years ago, such as that hopeless insanity or sentence of imprisonment for life should be a ground for divorce. An insight into the practical bearings of the Report may be obtained from a fascinating little book by Mr. E. S. P. Haynes, published by Messrs. W. Heffer and Co., Ltd., at 2s. net. For instance, there is pretty sure to be an outcry on the part of some of the organs of the Press at the recommendation, which there is every probability will be made, that the accounts of such cases should be curtailed to practically a mere announcement of the results. As Mr. Haynes very forcibly points out, the present publicity of the Divorce Court affords an easy method for inflicting an injury, which can never be wiped out, upon the reputation of a person. Anyone, if falsely and maliciously accused of dishonesty, may subsequently take proceedings against his or her accuser, but if maliciously accused of even the grossest matrimonial misconduct has no such remedy. Mr. Haynes cites a case which occurred within the last ten years, in which a dead woman was publicly accused of unfaithfulness and her husband had to come into Court to defend her memory. Within a similar period, an unmarried girl has been dragged into the Divorce Court, after a period of more than a year's suspense, and had her name published in connection with the proceedings on the strength of evidence which partly consisted of a forged document!

£750 value in prizes offered for "Bullets" this week.

TO MASTER DESTINY.

How unsuspected influences decide the fate of Man. Startling results by a few days' application of a new, easy Success-System, now revealed for the first time.

1,000 GUINEAS GUARANTEE.

"JOHN BULL" READERS MUST WRITE AT ONCE FOR FREE EXPLANATIONS. FREE LESSON AND FREE COPY OF THE MOST STARTLING BOOK EVER PUBLISHED.

Mr. FRANK HARTLEY,
Author of "How Failure Becomes Impossible."

"GET ON OR GET OUT."

is the iron-rule of the world in business, in art, exam nations, science, in any kind of trade or profession, in social intercourse, love, and even in health.

Are you getting on as well, as rapidly, and as universally as you would like to? *I am prepared to guarantee that you shall do so, and it will cost you nothing to put my claim to the test.* Read the letters of those who have followed my advice and you will see that I have a right to assert that I can help you in whatever aim you pursue. I have more letters of testimony . . . even a dozen issues of "John Bull," but the extracts from a few will be sufficient to show you what others think.

You need not take my word at face value. Write for the free explanations, the free book, and the free lesson which I offer, and see for yourself.

EXTRACTS FROM RECENT LETTERS.

Genuine and Unsolicited Under a Penalty Offer of 1,000 Guineas.

Mr. E. Gosling writes:—
"I have certainly benefited very much, and from a physical standpoint feel much lighter and brighter than before."

Mr. M. Gough writes:—
"Your course has been very interesting and very beneficial to me."

Miss A. Graham writes:—
"I have found your lessons very interesting, and now look upon life from quite a new standpoint."

Mr. R. Drake writes:—
"I have carefully studied your lesson this last fortnight, and I feel a great change has come over me. I am by nature rather slow, but still I am progressing quite rapidly in this study."

Mr. E. Douthwaite writes:—
"I have found the . . . exercises very beneficial physically, and I suppose that was partly from increased Will-power. Your teaching is really wonderful."

WHAT I HAVE DISCOVERED.

My discovery is simply this: A practical, simple and infallible way to success, to health, and to influence. My book shows you how to make failure impossible, and how to make sure of steady progress and success. The method used is my own discovery, and unlike any other, it is easy and simple, and, above all, speedy and entirely practical. It will enable you TO FIND YOURSELF. You will once for ever know the truth about every branch of Psychology, including such fascinating subjects as Personal Magnetism, Telepathy, Suggestion, Magnetic Healing. Before you have finished reading the free lesson, you will feel a new man or woman, you will already notice an increase of power and self-confidence and you will have seen for yourself that my claim is good.

MYSTERIES AND SECRETS OF THE MIND.

Personal Magnetism — The Power of Thought, Charm, Fascination, etc.

The inner constitution and the workings of the human mind are full of mysteries and secrets to the uninitiated. *To be compelling and attractive in personality, to know how to influence thoughts and actions of others* are things fully explained in my book and lesson. The secrets of the mind are laid bare, and you are enabled to reap the full advantage of the method discovered after many years of close study, research, observation and practical tests. To ask for the lesson and the book does not cost you anything, it does not bind you to anything, and will be of immeasurable benefit to you.

The results are practical and immediate, and if you make up your mind to-day that you mean to have done with failure and mediocrity, and write for this wonderful book at once, your progress will commence within 48 hours. "How Failure Becomes Impossible" will reveal to you possibilities of which you never dared to dream, and it will open a new outlook to your startled eyes. The edition now offered is expected to become exhausted within the next few days, and readers who are interested will do well to write without delay.

THE ROYAL ROAD TO WEALTH. SUCCESS. POWER. INFLUENCE. ETC..

is opened to you by means of this offer. Are you ambitious? Would you like to make rapid progress? Have you a wish the fulfilment of which will make all the difference to you?

Perfect happiness, influence, rapid progress and absolute success are now brought within your reach.

If *you* are not totally indifferent to your own interests you will grasp this opportunity of testing the value of this success—and Personal Influence development which is offered free. Copies of "How Failure Becomes Impossible" and of the free lesson cannot be guaranteed once this edition has been exhausted. You should therefore write without delay—merely enclosing two penny stamps for return postage. Address your letter to FRANK HARTLEY, Dept. C., London Institute of Mental Culture, 5, Wellington Street, London, W.C.

"MY MOTHER WAS A TERRIBLE SUFFERER."
"THE FREE PRESCRIPTION CURED HER."

"My mother thinks I ought to write and acknowledge the value of the free prescription you publish, as it is the only thing that did her any good. She has been a terrible sufferer for years. One doctor calls it Sciatica, another Neuralgia and Neuritis. The headaches were almost unbearable. The relief she obtained from the prescription was immediate, and we think she is now really cured.

"Perhaps I ought to state the prescription just as I cut it from the paper. I was told to ask our chemist for 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. He supplied it at once. Two tablets gave instant relief, and it was not necessary for mother to take them all. Father was bad with Lumbago at the time, and the remaining tablets cured him."—Miss Jenkins, Liverpool.

TRY THIS HOME-MADE COUGH REMEDY.

EASY TO MAKE AND COSTS LITTLE.

Here is a fine recipe for coughs that we published several times last winter, and which hundreds of our readers used with great success. It is more effective than anything you can buy already prepared, and for 2s. 6d. you can get enough of the essential oil to make half a pint of the best Cough Medicine obtainable.

From your chemist secure 1 oz. Parmint (Double Strength), take this home and add to it ½-pint hot water and 4oz. moist sugar, stir until dissolved. Take one tablespoonful four times a day. This will give instant relief, and will usually cure the most obstinate cough within 24 hours. It has a strong tonic effect, and is good either for children or adults; in fact, there is nothing better. This preparation should be made up and kept in every home where there are children.

IMPORTANT.—In ordering Parmint always specify that you want double strength. Your chemist has it, or he can easily get it for you.

IS YOUR HEART BAD?

Feel your pulse. Is it regular? Do you ever have Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Skipping a Beat, Cold Hands or Feet, Dropsy, Pains under the left Shoulder Blade, Trouble in lying on Left Side, Dizzy Spells, Drowsiness after Eating, Violent Starts in your Sleep, Fulness in the Throat, Neuralgia Around the Heart?

If you have any of these symptoms is it not time to correct them?

OXIEN has proved an almost infallible cure of Heart Complaints. Let us send you a FREE PACKET, that you may, WITHOUT COST, try its effects upon your trouble. We will send a week's Trial Treatment, relying on your telling your friends if it does you good. Full particulars of use and of some of the cures with every packet. It costs you nothing to try.—THE GIANT OXIE CO. Ltd. (Dept. 222 F.F.), 8, Bonverie Street, London, E.C.

FREE BOX—OXIEN.

Pretty Furs for Pretty Names.

ADORI

TOILET SOAP Sample Cake 6d. Post Free. Box of 3 Tablets 1/3 (postage free).

The Perfection of Japanese Toilet Soaps.

OUR ANNUAL XMAS FREE PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

	Value—Gns.
1st Prize—Magnificent Sealskin Coat	100
2nd Prize—Beautiful Mink Coat	75
3rd Prize—Handsome Persian Lamb Coat	50
4th Prize—Choice Musquash Coat	40
5th Prize—Elegant Sable Set	40
245 Consolation Prizes of Beautiful FURS, &c., &c.	

To effectively introduce Adori into every household, a further set of Seasonable Prizes will be awarded to the senders of the prettiest three Christian names for a girl and three most manly names for a boy.

What would be your choice? Fill in the coupon below and send P.O. for 1s. 3d. for 3 sixpenny tablets of Adori Soap.

The Competition will close December 14th, but *to ensure prompt delivery it is advisable that orders should be posted at once.*

ORDER FORM.

I enclose Postal Order and stamps 1s. 3d. for which please send me (postage paid) one box of Adori Toilet Soap containing 3 sixpenny tablets. I think the three prettiest Christian Names for a girl are:

1 ..... 2 ..... 3 .....

and the three most manly names for a boy are:

1 ..... 2 ..... 3 .....

Full Name .....

Address .....

Selections for additional Boxes may be written on Plain Paper.

J. B., ADORI, HENRIETTA STREET, LONDON, W.C.

£5,000 WORTH OF XMAS GIFTS FREE TO ALL.

Pendants, Extending Bracelets, Watches, and Japanese Senka charms, &c. Full Particulars and Brochure containing Photographs of Actors, who are acting as Judges in Name Competition, sent on receipt of Address.

BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation :—

Isn't Turkey pretty well "done"?
Have you got one "in the gold" yet? See page 666.
Isn't "How will Teddy bear it?" what America is asking?
Does "Made in Germany" describe the Turkish Army?
Isn't Buckingham Palace almost a "model dwelling"?
How long will theatre-goers "stand" the "wait and see" method?
How does the Government like it when Gibson Bowles?
Are there only three "nameless kings" at Westminster?
Isn't the British Medical Association rather *too* "exclusive"?
Why can't the Censor "publish the bans" a little earlier?
Isn't it curious that taxicab depression should be due to high spirits?

* * *

More Rapid Reviews :—

Rose of the Garden.—Blooming good.
A Slice of Life.—Rather thin.
The Turnstile.—Took some getting through.
Mrs. Ames.—The author misses *his* aims.
The Net.—Caught our attention.
The Distant Lamp.—Light reading.
The Open Door.—We soon shut it.
Seaford's Snake.—These studies in inebriety make us tired.
London Lavender.—We were soon on the scent.
Life of Lloyd George.—Too much of a tax on us.
The Old Nest.—We are inclined to fall out with the author.
The Lighted Way.—An illuminative book.
Queen Anne.—Rather dead.
The Rake's Progress.—All gardening books bore us.
Devil's Brew.—Could not swallow it.
The Marble Aphrodite.—Left us cold.
Levity Hicks.—Should like to *see more* of such books.
The Ultimate Conclusion.—Glad when we reached it.
Left in Charge.—The author deserves to be.
A Desert Rose.—Not so dusty.
The Book of Wonder.—Well named. Makes one wonder why it was written.

* * *

A winged motor-car has been invented. But too many fly along now.

* * *

"The Dusty Path," is the name of a new one-act comedy. Not so dusty.

* * *

Jest won a race at Newmarket at seven to one. Its backers thought it fine fun.

* * *

The girl who climbed a church steeple at Burbage showed her pluck, if nothing else.

* * *

"Tobacco is the tomb of love," Disraeli once said. Was he thinking of widows' weeds?

* * *

The *Mail* has been explaining the A.B.C. of the War. The L.S.D. will come afterwards.

* * *

"Are Fish Musical?" asks an evening paper. We have heard of them being played.

* * *

"A little Fowl Play," is the title of a music-hall piece. We trust it will have a good "run."

* * *

"The 'good old times' are now," says Lord Coleridge. The Liberals are certainly having one.

* * *

Cats are being used for ermine, we are told. It is well known that Old Tom makes the tongue furry.

* * *

The Kaiser is said to be economising. Surely he has no need to put anything by for a non-reigny day?

* * *

"New way of treating the skin," says an advertisement. Most drinkers are satisfied with the old ones.

* * *

Insurance won a race at Lanark and so proved that backing it was a sound policy.

* * *

The morning paper which speaks of the "unobstrusive motorist" has certainly discovered something new.

* * *

A German has an invention which dispenses with the use of starch. His price for it will doubtless be a stiff 'un.

* * *

The London physician who declares that dark people are braver than fair probably judges by the way his medicines are taken.

* * *

Look Round got only second place in a race at Windsor. No wonder.

* * *

Lord Northcliffe has bought *The Daily Citizen*, but he paid only a halfpenny for it.

* * *

Although the cost of firewood is to be increased it will still be sold at "cut" prices.

* * *

Bulgarian soldiers have been found impaled by the Kurds. But it is only their whey.

* * *

"Lion in a Wine Shop," reads a heading. The place must have done a roaring trade.

* * *

Bed is the best place in a thunderstorm, we are informed. What about sheet-lightning?

* * *

The City of London Rose Society, which has just been formed, is at present only in the bud.

* * *

Chocolate is a popular colour this season. The correct trimming, of course, is cream.

* * *

"The Fallen Idol,"—the title of a new play—suggests that there should be "pieces" in it.

* * *

"I was only singing 'Come with me,'" explained a beggar at Brentford. The bobby sang it too.

* * *

The radish sixteen inches long and ten round, reported from Hythe, is more than we can swallow.

* * *

At Westminster you must not accuse a member of lying; that is more than the House will stand.

* * *

Aviation may be, as alleged, a good cure for consumption, but you must not take a drop too much.

* * *

A cabbage weighing 75 lbs. has been grown in Essex. Here's a chance for the grower to go on the stump.

* * *

The nut diet recommended for business men should enable the hustler to get his lunch in "two cracks."

* * *

"Sermons mend no worlds," says a writer. But they make some comfortable spheres for the preachers.

* * *

A rifle range has been fitted out under a Soho church. Why not? Each has a good aim for its existence.

* * *

The findings of the Divorce Commission were signed on November 5th. The proper date for reports.

* * *

Refined tar costs 56s. per ton. We now understand the phrase, "the highest pitch of perfection."

* * *

The Post Office safes have not proved too popular. We never thought there would be much in them.

* * *

A Brooklyn man who has been ordered by the Court to kiss his wife twice a day says it is "two, too much."

* * *

"The Dancing Mistress"—the latest musical success—seems to be what Jeames might call a light "hopera."

* * *

A correspondent thinks it ominous that doctors' prescriptions should always be written in a "dead" language.

* * *

Lambeth's light-inspector, whose job has become a sinecure, has been pensioned off. But he is not "put out."

* * *

The Acton landlord who removed the windows to get rid of non-paying tenants intended them to feel a draught.

* * *

The German scientist who claims to have invented a cowless milk has evidently never been in the dairyman business.

* * *

"The chestnuts have failed this year," says an evening paper. Have the cheap comic papers been losing readers?

* * *

A Kentish Town vicar has received a donation of £500 as the result of a Kensitite protest. Who says they do no good?

* * *

The *Builder* says the new front of Buckingham Palace is "restrained, quiet, and dignified." Yet it is making quite a noise in the world.

* * *

"A quack is a pretentious, futile, and insincere person, whose professions express no genuine convictions, and whose performance bears no sort of relation to his promises," says *The Times*. There must be some quacks at Westminster.

Our record offer—7,000 "Bullets" Prizes. See page 666.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

FULL LIFE-SIZE ENLARGEMENT FOR ONLY 1\3 POST FREE.

Perhaps you have a photo at home of your parent, child, friend, or other loved one which you would like to have permanently enlarged without in any way injuring the photo. It makes no difference to us whether the photo is old, so long as it is not too faded. We guarantee to make from it in 14 days a **Beautiful Permanent Life-Size Enlargement**, which will be an ornament to your home and will give you pleasure for many years to come. These enlargements measure **22 inches high by 6 inches wide** without mount—the same size as is sold by many firms at 7s. 6d. They are "Real Works of Art," every one being made by a wonderful new chemical process on genuine permanent fabric (the new 'Bromo").

They are invariably realistic, truthful, and life-like, and every one is a splendid copy of the original. As a Christmas Gift these Enlargements will make very acceptable and inexpensive presents to friends and to absent loved ones abroad. They are life-size, and so good that we always say: **Satisfaction Guaranteed, or money returned in full.**

We deal with our customers in a strictly straightforward manner, and all we ask is that you will recommend us to your friends after you have received the enlargement, if you are satisfied with it. But if, on the other hand, the enlargement is not a truthful copy of the photo sent to us, return it immediately, and we will refund your money in full. No extra charge for groups or single figures from groups. Remember the better the photo the better the enlargement.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

this advertisement. It is our guarantee that you are under no further obligation to us beyond the 1s. 3d.

MONOCHROME PHOTO Co. (Dept. 1A), 6, Snow Hill, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

Write your Name and Address plainly on back of photo.

Riley's Billiard Tables

CASH OR EASY PAYMENTS.

Riley's Miniature Tables are so truly proportioned that you always get the same true game as on a standard table

Prices from £3/7/6. The most popular size is 6ft. 4in. at **£5/5/0**. Riley's Combined Billiard and Dining Tables from £13/10 to £32. Prices include all accessories and Carriage Paid to nearest railway station in the United Kingdom.

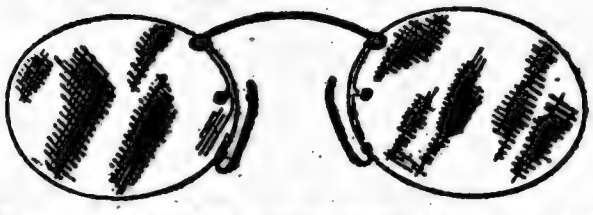
Gray's Book on Billiards, published at 1/-, will be sent post free on receipt of 2d. stamps.

FREE on receipt of postcard, full detailed illustrated Catalogue of Billiard and Dining Tables.

E. J. RILEY, LTD., IMPERIAL MILLS, ACCRINGTON.

London Showrooms: 147, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

ALMOST INVISIBLE.



The many advantages of wearing rimless glasses have hitherto been attended with the disadvantage of frailty, and the inconvenience caused when the lenses have to be replaced. To overcome this drawback, we have introduced a new pattern of rimless eyeglasses, having a simple, yet ingenious device for securing the lenses. In the event of breakage there is no inconvenience, as a new lense can be immediately inserted by the wearer. Made only in 9 carat gold. Price 25s. complete, with extra pair of lenses in case

SELFRIDGE & Co., Ltd., Oxford Street, London, W

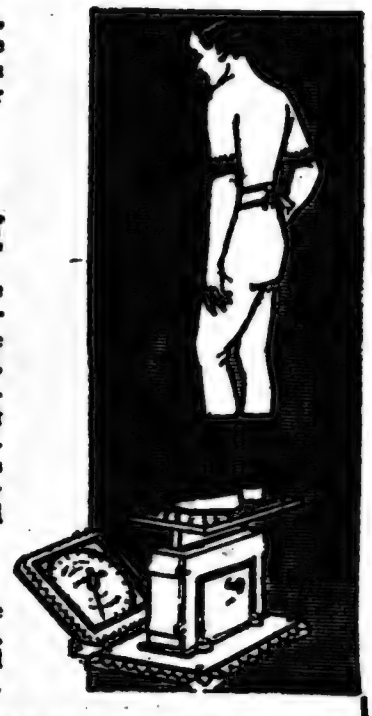
A Boon in every Home

THE NEW BAROMETER OF HEALTH

Check your weight frequently, it is a sure indicator of the state of your health. The sooner you appreciate this the better. Regular use of the

JARASO PERSONAL WEIGHING MACHINE

will enable you to detect at once all wasting or fattening diseases—consumption, obesity, etc. There should be one in every home, especially where there are children. Handy and light (measures 11 x 7½ x 8 inches; weight only 18 lbs). It is automatic in action—weighs you without weights. You simply step on and your weight is indicated by a dial reflected in a mirror.



Weighs from 1lb. to 20st.

Guaranteed Accurate. Invaluable in every Bath Room, Gymnasium, School, etc. Of great household utility—weighs luggage, parcels, etc.

Price complete, from 22/6 carriage paid.

Also fitted in handsome Oak, Mahogany, Sheritan, or Enamelled white cases, from 55/6 upwards.

Of all stores, Ironmongers, Chemists, etc.

If unobtainable locally, write Wholesale Manufacturers,

ALBERT C. SHOPPEE, Pancras Street, London, W.C.

Illustrated Booklet Free on Application.

THE NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.)

Hold an immense stock of genuine high-class second Hand ANTIQUE AND MODERN FURNITURE, £200,000 worth of high-class goods for sale, including FURNITURE, DRAPERIES, BEDDING, CARPETS, PLATE, LINEN, PIANOS, ETC., ETC.

The following is an abbreviated list of Furniture and Effects lately removed from

Milton Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens.
Drayton Road, Harlesden
Durnsford Road, Wimbledon Park.
The Avenue, Chingford.
Maud Street, Rhyl,
and Elsewhere.

THE DINING ROOMS, ETC.,

comprise the following: Set of 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs, Georgian period, 14 guineas; Georgian Sideboard to match, 11 guineas; dining table to match, extending, £7 10s; Bookcase to match, 6 guineas; very massive oak Sideboard, £5 10s.; Overmantel to match, £2 5s.; Extending dining table, £2 10s.; 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs in carved oak, 40 guineas; Sideboard, very finely carved, in oak, to match, 12 guineas; 3 Chesterfield Settees £3 10s. each; 6 very fine Lounge Club Divan easy chairs, 27s. 6d. each; Carved Oak Dining Table, 4 guineas; Carved Oak Overmantel, £2 10s.; Saddlebag suite, £4 15s.; another dining-room suite, £3 15s.; Massive carved oak Sideboard, with oxydised copper fittings, bevelled plate glass, 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs to match, extending dining table, heavy curb suite, £15 10s. the lot; similar set in fumigated oak, £13 10s.; 10 real Turkey carpets, about 9 by 12, at 7 guineas each; 4 Turkey carpets, about 9 ft. 6 ins. by 12 ft. 6 ins., £8 10s. each; 20 Turkey rugs, from 25s.; numerous carpets in Tapestry, Axminster and Velvet Pile, all sizes, in thoroughly good condition, to be sold without any reserve; a most elegant Grand Piano, 18 guineas; an upright Grand Piano, 12 guineas; another by Adolph Achumann, 18 guineas; another, by Carl Strauss, 22 guineas; several Grand Pianos by Broadwood, Emil Paner, Collard and Collard, Bluthner, and Bechstein; 3 Hall Stands, 18s. 6d. each; hall chairs, from 7s. 6d.; and all necessary effects for completely furnishing Dining Rooms, Smoke Rooms, Libraries, Studies, etc., etc.

THE NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (LTD.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

One door from Oxford Street, three minutes from Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Circus, and adjoining all the principal Tubes. Telephone 1307 Central. Cab Fares refunded to all purchasers.

Any item will be sold separately.

WRITE FOR FULL CATALOGUE, which will be sent post free.

Special attention given to Export orders.

Largest and most complete Depositories in the world.

JOHN BULL'S GENERAL LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 664.
For Sporting Replies, see page 668.

H. A. A. (North Ealing).—We are fed up with poems about Lloyd George.

R. N. T. (Harrogate).—You can send as many coupons as you like. The best Bullet received will win the £200.

"A BRITISH SUBJECT" (Toronto).—We are not in the least interested in Canadian opinion of Keir Hardie. What we want to know is why Canadians are so inhospitable to English workers.

D. R. (Plymouth) writes: "You have asked in JOHN BULL what is the flying Roll it is J. J. Jesserels intereptation of the Holly Bible I thought it a Master peice for Me as I am a very poor schooler." We are glad someone is satisfied, and half wish we were "schoolers" ourselves.

J. N. (Ontario) wants to know if Captain Scott was drawing his naval pay while searching for the South Pole. "If so," he comments, "poor widows, Suffragettes, and others have to pay it." But surely that applies to all sorts of luxuries, like Cabinet Ministers' salaries, doles to doctors and inspectorships for imbeciles!

"A SCARED SPINSTER" has an income of £100 per annum and asks: "Would you advise me to realise my estate and leave the country in case of war between Germany and England, or would it be safer for me to stay here and make more investments in Ireland, as I was thinking of doing?" Well, we ourselves are not packing up just yet.

"A MOTHER" (Kidderminster) writes: "I have had some experience in London with a Home for fallen girls, poor things! How my heart has ached for them when the time has come for their babies to be taken from them and they go out to service again!" She is very angry with the idea of unwanted children being drowned, and says she would like to drown anyone who suggests such a course. The sentiment does credit to her heart.

A. H. M. (Southern Nigeria) sends us a newspaper cutting about a man being fined £10 in Essex for stealing two hen's eggs of the value of 3d. We are always glad to receive news in a roundabout way, but fear that the eggs are now somewhat too stale to be dealt with!

J. S. E. (London).—It was rather funny of your employer to allude to himself and his co-directors as "the Powers." Considering how impotent the Powers have been during the recent European crisis, he was not paying himself a very high compliment.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM" defends the St. Giles's Christian Mission. He was found out in something he calls a peccadillo and was sent for a time to Dartmoor, where, he says, he enjoyed the rare and refreshing breezes. As he is the son of a county magistrate, the cousin of a peer, and an Oxford man, we are not surprised to hear that he received kind advice and consideration. Nor are we much impressed by the statement that Mr. Wheatley is respected by magistrates, police, ex-convicts and prison officials alike. A true friend of the down-trodden would be more likely to come to loggerheads sometimes with the authorities. Mr. Wheatley must find it difficult to "run with the hare and hunt with the hounds" at the same time

SAM (Colchester).—You can use as many different "examples" as you like in constructing your Bullets, provided you don't send more than two efforts on one coupon. Aren't ten thousand prizes enough for you?

L. I. (West Hartlepool).—In the absence of any written agreement to the contrary, you are a yearly tenant entitled to six months' notice, expiring on the same quarter-day or other date as the tenancy commenced. The notice you have received is therefore irregular, and you may disregard it. If the landlord takes possession on the strength of it, he will be liable for substantial damages.

W. H. (Reading).—We accept no editorial responsibility for the statements contained in the recent advertisement of Mr. Mellor, of Manchester and London, and are not in a position to take upon ourselves the responsibility of recommending his treatment.

W. K.—If you desire to prevent your wife continuing to pledge your credit, you must give notice to all the tradesmen with whom she has been accustomed to deal that you will no longer be responsible for her debts, and advertise the fact in the chief local and one ordinary daily paper; but you should endeavour to come to some reasonable arrangement with her so as to prevent this unpleasant publicity.

"DIFFERENT" (Kentish Town) writes: "Knowing that I have yet a lot to learn, I wish to make it clear to you that I must apply to Brains if I want to succeed." After this compliment he proceeds to inform us that he has a soft job and the money is all right, but he knows we shall only be too pleased to advise him how to escape such a life. This is somewhat puzzling, for his only grievance is that one of his fellow-workers is always picking women to pieces—metaphorically, of course. The only advice we can think of is that our young friend should return the harsh answer which turneth away stupidity.

"JUSTICE."—If a seaman is engaged for a voyage and dies before it is completed, his personal representatives cannot claim any part of his wages—even if he died only a day before completion. As, however, he was washed overboard, his dependents could claim under the Workmen's Compensation Act—but, unfortunately for you, creditors are not dependents.

W. F. C. (Watford) points out that the German mercantile marine is manned by fully-trained sailors and, therefore, quite apart from the question of ships, Germany has very many more men who have been trained for fighting than we have. Judging by recent events, the only thing now needed by the Germans is an effective gun.

MISS H. (Islington).—If rent is in arrear the landlord can distrain, and is not compelled to withdraw the man in possession on the offer of part. What funny ideas some people have!

H. E. L. complains of the L.C.C. cars from Moorgate Street to Stamford Hill. He says there are long waits of 15 to 30 minutes and ugly rushes before a seat can be secured. His comment is: "No wonder the cars do not pay." We do not wonder that he should have chosen such expressive initials.

"NERO" (Dewsbury).—As the man died intestate, and your sister was not legally married to him, she has no claim to any of his property. The fact that they lived together for 23 years and everyone thought they were married makes no difference, but in such circumstances the relatives should not take advantage of the position.

"BALHAM CORRESPONDENT."—We regret that a correspondent at Grove Road, Balham, omitted to send us his name, as we should otherwise have been pleased to go in to his serious allegations about certain hospitals.

T. B. H. (Leyton).—Anyone who has private means of £26 a year or upwards can obtain exemption from contributions under the Insurance Act; but if you legally contract to give your brother an income of £26 per annum and he treats you similarly, the Courts would hold such a transaction to be a mere colourable device to get round the law, and you might find yourself mulcted in heavy penalties. We advise you not to try it.

E. E. (Southampton) tells how a boy went into a grocer's shop, saying, "Please will you give mother a piece of cheese to bait the mouse-trap?" He brought it back in a few minutes with the remark, "Mother says it is too dry." Perhaps it was. Anyhow, that boy ought to get on.

"TUNER" (Southsea).—A person who never requires any of the benefits of the National Insurance Act will not be entitled to the return of contributions or to any interest—this is where there is no "ninepence for fourpence"—but his "approved society" may provide for superannuation benefits instead.

C. F. G. G. (Swansea).—We do not understand that Mr. Huxley professes to have any English diploma, but that he holds an American qualification. We have no reason to doubt the genuineness of the testimonials he publishes, several of which we have made a point of verifying.

E. J. (Bury).—You cannot get released from your guarantee unless the money-lender consents, and this he is not likely to do. We hope the debtor will fulfil his obligations and that you will not be called upon. Next time you are asked to stand surety, remember that a guarantor is invariably called upon at the time most inconvenient to himself.

"Bullets" is still going by leaps and bounds. See page 666.

"JASPER" belongs to a debating society and wants to know if the Speaker was right in ruling him out of order for applying the word "humbug" to His Majesty's Government. The answer is in the affirmative. But, after all, the word humbug is only a forcible, popular synonym for a diplomatist. It is, nevertheless, always wise to humour the idiosyncrasies of the Speaker, even in a debating society. This can generally be done by withdrawing the objectionable expression and substituting a more forcible one in politer language. For instance, "meretricious mountebanks" would be a suitable substitute in this case.

G. P. (N.E.).—Your employer was entitled to give you notice and tell you not to come to the office during its currency but to call for your salary at the end of it. Why do you complain? You can utilise the time in finding another situation, and if he does not pay you can sue him in the County Court.

R. J. S. (Crow's Buildings, Pretoria) sends us information about "a new political organisation, the Imperial Service Legion of Honour," with which he seems to be connected. We have not read the manifesto very carefully, but notice it has all sorts of high-sounding officials and members with military titles and gaudy insignia. Silk sashes of red, white and blue are to be worn at meetings and on all Imperial holidays. Girls' sashes are to have a "portrait of Princess Mary worked in the sash until such time as we have a Princess of Wales." Their subscriptions are 2s. 6d. per annum "or more if necessary." No doubt the success of the Legion will depend upon the popularity of titles and ribbon.

"IVY" (Hull).—It is exceedingly sad that your young son should be permanently injured through the negligence of another boy, but you have no remedy, as parents are not liable for the negligence of their children.

"A ROLLING FLYER" (Canonbury) offers us a copy of the "Flying Roll" for 2d., which, he thinks, is about all it is worth. He says it was printed in 1876 and contains "a lot of piffle out of the Scriptures," from which we gather that he means that it is not an authentic work.

L. S. (Stepney).—If the marriage was legally dissolved in America the woman can marry again, but the "if" is of great importance when speaking of the regularity of American divorces.

"DAVY STEPHENS," our old Kingstown friend, sends us his photograph. We congratulate him upon his healthy appearance, his medal—a sovereign presented to him by Queen Victoria on her last visit to the Emerald Isle—and the publication (JOHN BULL) which he has selected to hold in his hand. Perhaps on his next journey to the Derby he will give us a look-up.

C. B.—Children of any age and either sex, if of sufficient ability, must contribute to the support of parents chargeable to the rates. Why should you expect the ratepayers to keep your father?

E. G. (Islington).—The letters you send us from the H. Kirkus Dugdale Co., Inc., Washington, are part of an old and frequently exposed trick.

A. A. D. (Pontypridd).—The Insurance Act came into force on July 15th last. You had better immediately stamp your domestic servant's card for all the arrears, otherwise you may be heavily fined. Ignorance of the law is no defence, and even if it were, no one would believe that you were unaware of this Act.

H. U. (Rhondda Valley) has paid the whole of the fees for a course of instruction by the International Correspondence Schools, but is told that he cannot have the remainder of the instruction papers until he has completed the study of those in hand. We do not think the School could successfully maintain such an attitude.

M. G. T. (Llangollen).—Property cannot be tied up for longer than a life or lives in being and 21 years after. It is hard luck, in the circumstances you mention.

THE GRAMOPHONE EXCHANGE (29 and 31, New Oxford Street) wish to be dissociated from the Gramophone Importing Record Company, of Nos. 59 and 61 in that thoroughfare, upon whose methods we recently commented.

MRS. J. (Chiswick).—If the executor has not paid all you are entitled to, sue him in the County Court for the balance.

"SENRAB."—We have enquired into your complaint about Hapgoods, and are assured that their files show a continual correspondence with you, that your qualifications were in some cases brought personally to the notice of clients, and that a brief abstract of your record was widely circulated.

"A READER OF J.B." (Colchester).—Your father can prosecute both the lawyer and the "big business man" if they forged his name. But he had better make sure of his ground before setting the criminal law in motion. Lawyers and big business men sometimes do wicked things, but usually draw the line at forgery.

"THICK AND THIN" (Kingston) complains that the cover of a new sewing-machine was badly damaged by Carter, Paterson and Co. The carriers replied that the article should have been packed in another case, and refused to call and inspect the damage. He will know what to do next time he needs a carrier!

A. S. (Morriston).—Under a hire-purchase agreement you can return the cash register, but you would have to pay any instalments in arrear. If it is an agreement to purchase outright, you are bound to complete.

"BROMPTON" (London, S.W.) states that a doctor who treated her for pneumonia had her sent to the Brompton hospital, "nearly frightening her out of her life." The institution, however, discharged her as having no signs of consumption. She entrusted the sale of her cycle to the nurse introduced by the doctor, but the money was handed to him. She thereupon obtained judgment for the amount. Either this letter or the season of the year makes one think of Dickens and Betsey Gamp.

"T. T. T." (Barnes) sends us a love-letter, which, he says, has come into his possession quite by accident and has given him much food for reflection. It is quite a nice letter and, though we may not approve of the person to whom it was addressed, we must confess that we think "T. T. T." has not played a very praiseworthy part in inviting us to give it publicity. What on earth has it to do with us or with "T. T. T." that the recipient of the letter is "head-over-heels in debt"?

W. B. (Leigh-on-Sea) has been threatened for the abominable crime of skating in the streets. He should remind his persecutors that this is one of the many privileges which the public owe to the Home Secretaryship of Mr. Churchill.

"REGULAR" (Grays).—If the piano which your father-in-law presented to your wife on the occasion of her marriage was obtained on the hire-purchase system, the firm is entitled to its return if the instalments are in arrear. It is silly of people to give presents which they cannot afford to purchase outright. Better arrange to pay the balance.

AN ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENT says he will never have a wink of sleep until we answer a number of questions. With great reluctance, we fear we must condemn him to perpetual insomnia—at any rate, until he sees fit to entrust us with his name and address.

MRS. P. (Croydon).—Provided your claim to the property is good, you should have no difficulty in finding a solicitor to take the matter up, but so many imagine they have claims which are unfounded in fact.

G. B. AND G. A. C. (Adelaide) inform us that they have left good homes and families and travelled 11,000 miles in order to find advertisements stating "No immigrants need apply." They would have done better to consult us before they started.

MRS. E. (Yardley).—As your son was only 18 at the time of the injury, and was earning but 9s. a week, he was entitled to full wages while he was incapacitated. The firm having taken him back at full wages, you cannot claim anything further at present, but as the injury is permanent an agreement should be registered in the County Court—then he can claim compensation if the mishap interferes with his earning power in the future.

A. C. (London) has just returned from seven years of roaming in all parts of the world, and is inspired by our placards to write and complain about the eyesores which still remain in our capital. He wants us to pull down "that miserable pepper-box of a dome at the top of the National Gallery and to compel the owners of Apsley House and Devonshire House to improve the outside of those buildings." He is also disgusted to see St. George's Hospital occupying the finest site in London, and thinks it ought to be replaced by an opera house. We will communicate this suggestion to Mr. Hammerstein, who will doubtless jump at the notion of spending a few more millions in educating our musical tastes!

N. A. T. (Bedford).—If the mortgagee sells the property and it does not realise sufficient to pay the amount lent, interest and costs, he can sue the mortgagor for the balance, and on obtaining judgment can levy execution.

R. O. F. (Biggleswade) has been informed that it is quite unnecessary to cross postal orders, and suggests that we should discourage the Post Office from inviting us to waste our time and ink. But surely a crossed postal order is more difficult to cash by a thief and, apart from that, Government Departments always like to multiply difficulties and delays whenever they can.

E. D. (Ramsgate).—It is unwise to lend money—particularly to a comparative stranger. If you think the man has means, sue him in the County Court, but even that legal tribunal cannot squeeze blood out of a stone.

A CORRESPONDENT, who does not wish her name and address published, gives us figures of the earnings of quick and intelligent girls at the establishment of a blouse manufacturer. They vary between 4s. 8d. and 12s. 11½d. in one case, the average being much below double figures, and in another case 8s. a week. This, of course, is not anything like a living wage, particularly in view of the Insurance Act. We are requested to say whether these wages are a matter of favour or disfavour, seeing that some workers earn up to £1 a week. It is, of course, utterly impossible for us to pronounce on a point of this kind, but whether or no the more successful workers earn something nearly approaching to a living wage, it seems to us abominable that anybody should be sweated at a rate very far below the requirements of an honest livelihood.

Our first "Bullets" prize increased this week to £200.

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

THE STOCK MARKETS.

By "Verax."

(For City Notes and Financial Letter-Box see pages 662 and 664.)

Apparently the Balkan trouble is not going to be finally settled without a game of "grab" on the part of some of the Great Powers, but no doubt a great deal of bluff is being indulged in, and I cannot believe that it will lead to actual war. Markets are still strengthened by the existence of a fairly large "Bear" account, and in case everything passes off peacefully, a sharp recovery must surely result.

The Government and the Railways.

I am glad to see that the Government is at last, and none too soon, taking steps to fulfil its pledge to the railway companies, and is introducing a one-clause Bill to allow the companies to raise rates to a sufficient extent to compensate them for increasing wages and improving the condition of their servants. I do not see how else the Government could have acted, and, if certain safeguards are introduced, the trading community should not suffer. From the point of view of the investor, the position of the Home Railway market is full of promise, although the unsettled Balkan situation will probably delay the improvement which might otherwise have been anticipated.

Yankees After the Elections—Tariff Fears the Only Uncertain Factor.

The Presidential Elections have come and gone, and, making a virtue of necessity, the American market has accepted Dr. Woodrow Wilson as the best possible President that could have been secured under the circumstances. After the first outburst, however, the market has taken more time to consider the possible effects of the advent of the Democrats to power, and, summing up, it is evident that there is only the fear of tinkering with the tariff to upset matters. Of course, the Trusts and Corporations have most to fear therefrom, including the *Steel Corporation*, but it is significant that so far the quotation of *Steel Common* has held up at about 80. In other respects the outlook for the American market is very encouraging, and with the Presidential Elections out of the way, and bountiful crops, a prolonged period of prosperity seems to be in store for the United States. Moreover, as long as the prospective tariff reductions are confined to revenue purposes, they should do no harm in the long run. The fact should also not be overlooked that the President-Elect has promised to permit the railroads to raise rates to an extent which will compensate for increases in wages to their men. Under these circumstances, I look for an improving market in *Americans*, with occasional reactions in order to keep the position healthy, and as the powerful Wall Street pools have the market well in hand, they will find little difficulty in carrying out their plans. But what must ultimately govern the course of quotations is the extent of the Democratic plans for the reduction of the tariff, and the effect of the same upon the American Corporations and Trusts.

Canadian Danger-Signals—Another Warning.

Even at the risk of incurring a certain amount of unpopularity, I have often pointed out the risks which Canada was incurring by not learning to look before leaping. I should be the last to decry the magnificent natural resources of the great Dominion, but point is added to my warnings by the statement made by a well-known firm of stockbrokers, who have special facilities for gauging the true position. It is, for instance, contended that Canada, as a country, is trading on unsound lines, and has borrowed more money than she has been able profitably to employ. In ten years to the end of 1911 the imports exceeded the exports by about £170,000,000, and as some £20,000,000 to £25,000,000 a year has to be remitted for interest and other services, the total adverse trade balance for this period must have amounted to not less than £400,000,000, or an average of £40,000,000 a year. A large portion of this sum, of course, represents imported capital, but it is contended that exports are not increasing relatively to the huge imports of capital, and that consequently part of the capital is unproductive, and that interest can only be paid by fresh borrowing. No comparison is possible with Great Britain, for instance, whose imports are more than double its exports, but which has capital invested in every quarter of the globe, and which carries more than half the world's commerce in her own ships. The lesson for Canada is that she must hasten more slowly, and it is probable that financial and other considerations will cause the indefinite postponement of such schemes as the Georgian Bay Canal, etc.

Kaffirs, Rhodesians and Diamonds Marking Time.

The uncertain political outlook has caused the South African market to pause, and here and there slight reactions have occurred, but the position on the Rand is so satisfactory that, provided no European war breaks out, prices will promptly recover. The October gold output of the Transvaal is satisfactory—viz., 768,681 ozs., against 747,893 ozs. in September. Profits, too, are larger.

The latest interim reports of the engineers of the leading Rhodesian mines, such as *Shamva*, *Falcon*, *Planet Arcturus*, *Eldorado*, and *Cam and Motor*, have uniformly been favourable, and their remarks point to an all-round improvement in the affairs of the country, while the enormous increase in ore reserves is most encouraging; but obviously in this case European politics also act as a wet blanket.

Diamond mines at one time advanced sharply, especially *New Premier Deferred*, on the discovery of a big diamond, larger than the Cullinan stone, obtained from the same mine; but it appears now that the quality is inferior. There has been a moderate relapse also in *De Beers*, but *Jagersfontein* have been an exceptionally steady market and look like going better.

Coppers up to Date—Continued Bright Outlook.

The Copper market has not been affected to any extent by the Balkan war, and the reaction which occurred thereon has practically all been recovered again. The fact is that the industry has now worked itself into a very prosperous condition, and that consumption is fully keeping pace with production. My favourable views regarding the course of American copper shares have been fully borne out by events, *Amalgamated* and *Anaconda* having been more especially in demand, while *Utahs* have benefited by the termination of the strike troubles. Some interesting information is available regarding the Queensland copper industry, from which it would appear that the *Mount Elliott* is the most productive mine; but as these shares have now largely passed under the control of French groups, they are not very suitable for British investors. The *Great Fitzroy* is also turning out substantial quantities of the metal, but not at any great profit. The Russian copper-mining industry is forging ahead, and the *Kyshtim Corporation* has just entered the dividend list with an interim dividend of 1s. per share; but in the case of such companies, also, the shares are so largely held in Paris and other Continental centres that they are even more than usually susceptible to the vagaries of the Bourses.

Oil Shares Fairly Supported, Despite European Politics—Sharp Rise in Mexican Eagles—South African Oil Coming.

I adhere to the opinion I have already expressed, that whenever European politics cease from troubling there will be a boom or boomlet in oil shares, obviously only in such companies as are really sound and promising. *Shell Transports* generally fluctuate with the outside influences, and are now somewhat easier, but *Ural Caspians* have kept a firm front in view of favourable developments. The strongest share, however, has been *Mexican Eagle*, the *Preferred Ordinary* advancing on a cable, according to which a big gusher has developed in the Tierra Amarilla well No. 6, showing a heavy pressure. It has been securely closed, but it is impossible to test it, as it is beyond the capacity of a 4-inch oil pipe line and tankage. This, of course, means that the *Mexican Eagle* output will be further increased. There is also a special demand again for *Bibi-Eybat* and *Schibaieff* at rising prices. The demand comes from Amsterdam, but it is believed to be on Russian buying orders. *Egyptian Oil* shares continue weak, but it transpires that drilling has commenced on that portion of the Suez Oil property adjoining the Gemsah oilfield. On the Maikop oilfield matters are at present going on very slowly, partly owing to bad weather, and the market is also slow, waiting apparently the return of the managing director of the *Anglo-Maikop*. There is much market interest in the rumoured intention of a London syndicate to seriously take up *South African Oil*, and all sorts of sensational statements are afloat as to the immense possibilities of the new industry. It is said that a big company is on the *tapis*.

Now is the time to try "Bullets"—See our remarkable offer on page 666.

South Africa's New Industry—Oil within the Empire.

South Africa—our most wonderful Colony—is about to assume a new rôle. Gold and Diamonds are to be succeeded by oil—that precious mineral product for which the whole world is clamouring, and in which there is good reason to believe that the Cape is equally rich.

Owing to a variety of causes, this new source of wealth has remained dormant until now, although but for special reasons of an exceptional character, the new industry would have been opened up seven years ago, at which time the subject aroused widespread interest, as will be gathered from the following extracts from leading journals :—

"WESTMINSTER GAZETTE."

Nearly every variety of mineral has been found in our newest Colonies, coal included; why not Oil? All the Mineral Oil now used in South Africa is imported, mostly from the United States, and to a lesser extent from Russia; and naturally, therefore, sells at a high price. It was known that prospecting for Oil had been going on in portions of Cape Colony; and, judging by the reports of various experts, there is no doubt about the existence of all the familiar indications of Petroleum in the districts of Ceres and Mossel Bay. One of the investigators—an expert of European note—has recorded his conviction "that Oil exists in large quantities in the district of Ceres." Another visitor found the geological formation at Ceres similar to that of Pennsylvania, and is of opinion that "an industry awaits development which, should it prove what competent persons predict for it, will not only change the beautiful Ceres basin, but revolutionise trade and commerce in South Africa."—*March 31st, 1904.*

In another issue the following interview appeared :—

A TALK WITH AN EXPERT.—Mr. A. Lewis, who has had a long experience of South Africa, waxed loquacious to a *Westminster* correspondent yesterday anent the potentialities of our new Colonies in connection with Petroleum. He was interrogated more especially respecting the petroliferous-areas in the Mossel Bay and Ceres districts of Cape Colony, which, he remarked, are "quite wonderful."

"These Cape Oilfields," continued Mr. Lewis, "have been reported upon by some of the best-known experts in the world—Mr. Mills Davies, Mr. William W. Van Ness, late of the Geological Survey, U.S.A., and Mr. Moris Mencher, an Oil expert of European repute. All these gentlemen report the existence of Oil in the two districts referred to, and Mr. Van Ness states that 'Oil exists in large quantities in the district of Ceres.'

"When the Oil is got there will be a tremendous field for its sale; in fact, it is impossible to put a limit on the extent of the market."—*Dec. 6th, 1904.*

"FINANCIAL TIMES."

In its issue of November 3rd, 1905, the *Financial Times* published a long report from Mr. E. P. Rathbone on the Carnarvon District of Cape Colony, sent by its Johannesburg correspondent, and the following is the editorial footnote to such report :—

> "Of course, the whole matter is highly theoretical, but important practical results have frequently followed on theoretical reasoning, and vast commercial possibilities are opened up in this instance."

"MORNING POST."

Before the Boer War a good deal was made of certain Oil discoveries in Cape Colony, especially at Ceres and at Mossel Bay. The lands were investigated by experts like Mr. William W. Van Ness, of Philadelphia; Mr. Moris Mencher, and Mr. J. Mills Davies, while accounts of a less scientific nature were published in the Cape newspapers. The war threw the whole matter into abeyance, but now we learn that the whole subject is being taken practically in hand. The reports of the investigators testify as to the existence of indications of Petroleum in several places.—*March 28th, 1904.*

"PALL MALL GAZETTE."

There is technical evidence that certain districts in Cape Colony are petroliferous—a fact originally made known, if we remember aright, some half-dozen years or so ago. The areas which were investigated are in the Ceres and Mossel Bay districts, and the results of the examination of large tracts of territory seem sufficiently encouraging to justify a hope that similar discoveries will follow, in time, in other parts of our new possessions.—*April 2nd, 1904.*

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter Box, see page 664.*]

South Africa's New Role.

The remarkable facts set out on another page in reference to the exploitation of oil lands in South Africa will be read with profound interest, not only by investors, but equally by everybody interested in the material development of the British Empire. It has long been known that in Cape Colony, and particularly in the Ceres and Mossel Bay districts, there are vast tracts of petroliferous land, and it has been a matter of wonder that up to the present no serious effort has been made to develop them. It is apparently the old story: Nobody will make a start. The "big houses," as they are called, true to their traditions of never acting as the pioneers of anything, have stood aloof—waiting to snatch the fruit of other people's enterprise. Now, however, it appears that a strong and determined financial group have taken the matter in hand, and there are more unlikely things than that before long the gold and diamond sections of the South African market will be seriously challenged by a Petroleum department. In any case, the course of events will be watched with interest.

Cameroon Fisheries Company of West Africa.

In our issue of 19th ult. we referred to this concern, which was then making a public issue of shares, and expressed a doubt whether even the stupidest fish would be caught by it. At the time we noticed with some surprise that the name of the well-known firm of Messrs. Siemen and Halske was paraded in the prospectus in a manner suggestive of their being, in some way or other, concerned in its future. We have now seen a letter from the firm in which they state not only that they were not connected with the venture but that they decline to guarantee the commercial success of the process to be exploited by the Company, its efficacy being as yet untried, and that they had protested against the publication of the prospectus.

Salving a Derelict.

At the Homocea meeting the other day, Mr. Benjamin Brandreth, the son of the gentleman who invented the phrase "Homocea, Touches the Spot," defeated a scheme launched by his co-directors for the sale of the business. Mr. Brandreth told the shareholders that "he was on the verge of making a success at the Bar," but was prepared to give up his practice and take over the management without salary. This he considered was practically calling upon him to "salve a derelict," and with his experience he believed he was the only one who could do it. We like the phrase "salve the derelict" in connection with a preparation which was placed on the market as a salve for those suffering from sores. So far as the public is concerned, the preparation may have done so; but the shareholders seem to feel that it has opened some for them.

A Baronet-Solicitor Tout.

Our attention has been called to a circular recently issued by Sir Charles Buckworth Herne-Soame "(Baronet) Solicitor (retired)," of 115 and 117, Cannon Street, E.C., stating that he had been instructed to realise "a 6 per cent. and 7 per cent. Gas Works security." Enclosed in the circular are printed particulars of a company called the (New) Toddington and District Gas Light and Coke Co., Limited. Sir C. B. H. Soame, Bart.," etc., has been offering shares in the same company for the past 3½ years. In March, 1909, he was also offering them as chairman of the Water and Gas Debenture and Share Investment Trust, Ltd., which was then guaranteeing "a dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares then offered, for a period of two years," which would take us to March, 1911. In the latest circular we read that the interest on the shares is to be guaranteed, but the name of the guarantor is not given. The name of Sir Charles B. H. Soame, "Bart. Solicitor (retired)," is familiar to us as being that of a gentleman who has identified himself somewhat frequently with the creations of the Edmund Eaton stable. One of the more notorious enterprises was the Patent Block Tar Motor Oil and Asphalte Co., Ltd., of which Sir Charles was, at one time, the chairman. After the company had done a little touting on its own account, he took the circularising into his own hands last year, when he considered that its £1 paper would go to £6; but they were still being offered by the company at par so recently as September of this year.

Then there was Sir Charles' association, as director, with the Beet Sugar Development Co. of England, Ltd., another Edmund Eaton creation, which issued a prospectus in June, 1910. The exact whereabout of the offices of this company do not appear to have been ascertained by Somerset House. The registered offices in July of last year were returned as Brewer Street, London, which, in view of the fact that there are several streets of that name, is somewhat vague.

We have shown Sir Charles' connection with three Eaton promotions. As to the standing of Mr. Edmund Eaton, we shall allow Sir J. Hawtrey Cox, Bart., to speak. Sir Hawtrey was one of the directors of the Suddine Fuel Co., and he was also on the board of another Eaton concern, the Brighton, Eastbourne and Bognor Crystal Water Co., Ltd. There came a time when, to quote his own words, he "could not reconcile his business ideas to those of Mr. Edmund Eaton and his friends," who, so it appears from Sir Hawtrey, were stated to him to be "reliable persons, with considerable capital behind them"; but Sir Hawtrey states: "This I now know was not a fact."

Tulsa Oil Company.

Mr. Meares' review of the Oklahoma Oil industry generally, and of the Tulsa Oil Company in particular, in his speech at the recent meeting was a masterly effort. It went to the root of things and gave information usually reserved for the *cognoscenti*. Considering the short time the Tulsa Company has been working, the rapid progress already made is remarkable. Three new producing wells, each 1,675 ft. in depth, completed—two more nearing completion—with various other heavy expenditures, and all paid for out of receipts without spending a penny piece of working capital.

De Beers and Jagers.

There has been excellent buying of these for some time past, and we quite expect to see them go to much higher prices as soon as the war is over.

NEW ISSUES.

Naamlooze Vennootschap Hollandsche Vereeniging tot Exploitatie van Margarine Fabrieken.

There you are! The preference shares are "Fl.12=£1," and they are only 22s. each. Van den Berghs guarantee them, and, apparently, the promoters of the issue are the Prudential Trust Corporation! Only one other point. The Company is incorporated under Dutch law. What more do you want?

Queensland Four per Cent. Stock.

An issue by the Bank of England of £2,000,000 stock, about £1,500,000 of which will be applied towards the redemption of bonds due next January—the balance being utilised for the "construction of railways and for other public works of a remunerative character." We would rather that it went towards the construction of a Dreadnought!

Lever Brothers.

An issue of 50,500 6 per cent. "C" preference shares (part of an authorised issue of £5,000,000), and although we do not for a moment suggest that the investment is not thoroughly sound, we confess that we should have preferred a better reason for the issue than "the extension of the business and undertakings of its associated companies, including development work on plantations in the Pacific Islands, and general development at various stations on the West Coast of Africa and in the Belgian Congo." We observe that the prospectus contains a lot of information not strictly required by the Companies Act, but the directors have omitted to give their addresses.

Gautrache Land Company.

A debenture issue of £250,000—part of an authorised issue of £450,000—for the "further development of existing properties (in Argentina) and the acquisition and development of others as occasion may arise, and for the general purposes of the Company." Up to the present, no definite results have been obtained, and we regard the security as a hazardous one.

British Orto Tyres.

A somewhat speculative little concern, to acquire and exploit certain tyre patents, the use of which, it is claimed, in addition to many other advantages, "prevents a burst," and it is said that, "even though the outer cover may be cut clean through, the running of the car is not affected." If half of what is claimed is true—but that is a big "if."

City of Sydney Loan.

Another little addition to the liabilities of Sydney, whose present indebtedness amounts to four and a half millions. No doubt quite safe, but we are not enamoured of these Colonial issues.

2,000 Xmas Turkeys as "Bullets" prizes. See page 666.

South Africa's New Industry—Oil within the Empire

Continued from Page 661.

"DIAMOND FIELDS MINING NEWS."

The *Diamond Fields Mining News* of November 21st, 1896, says:—

"In addition to possessing all the surface indications in a marked degree, the Ceres district is said, by professional men, to furnish all the geologic conditions required. The strata consists of alternating layers of sandstone and shale, and the anticlinal structure which has been found to influence the power of strata to accumulate oil and gas and forms a most important factor in their occurrence, is everywhere apparent."

THE "DIAMOND FIELDS ADVERTISER."

The Special Commissioner of the *Diamond Fields Advertiser,* who visited the Ceres district in 1895, wrote:—

"Along the route I stopped over and over again to look for indications of the Oil. Thanks to the rainfall, I found them everywhere."

That there was good reason for the views thus expressed will be gathered from the following remarkable statement:—

THE PRIME MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Addressing the Farmers' Congress, held at Krugersdorp a few years ago, General Botha, now Prime Minister of South Africa, vigorously protested against the importation of Oil on the ground that "there was plenty of it in the Transvaal."

A CAPE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION.

"We may look forward to an African Petroleum trade with the world. Great volumes of oil ooze from the earth in many places, and this wondrous country is just as likely to fill the pockets of its exploiters with millions of money got from oil as from any other undeveloped product."—Extract from *Cape Colony To-Day,* 2nd Edition, 1909. Issued by the Cape Government Railway Department.

SIR BOVERTON REDWOOD.

Sir Boverton Redwood, the eminent authority on Oil, and a member of the Royal Commission now sitting, a few years ago examined samples of rock from South Africa, and the following is an extract from his report: "On making a superficial examination of the surface of the sample, I observed some dark stains which were suggestive of petroleum. I therefore broke up the mass with care and was rewarded by finding free petroleum in small cavities or fissures; the petroleum saturated the rock only in the immediate neighbourhood of these cavities and could not have penetrated from the exterior of the mass. I then took a weighted quantity of the broken rock and subjected it to destructive distillation. The distillate consisted of water with globules of light-coloured oil with the well-known odour of distilled petroleum, and on applying a light to the tubulure of the retort while the distillation was in progress, the petroleum vapour took fire, and burned with a steady luminous flame from two to three inches in height. Of the presence of petroleum in the sample there is therefore no doubt." Sir Boverton Redwood also made favourable reference to the question of South African Oil in a lecture delivered a few years ago upon "The Petroleum Sources of the British Empire."

NATURE'S DEMONSTRATION.

In an affidavit made by a farmer in the Ceres District, named Henry Prius, dealing with an explosion of petroleum gas which occurred in the neighbourhood a few years ago, it is stated that "a veld fire occurred on the mountain, and gradually extended over Schoonvlei (the name of the farm) and eventually crossed a strong fountain (of gas). When the fire crossed the fountain a tremendous explosion took place, with a noise like thunder, followed by a great eruption of mud, stones, water and flames, the latter reaching a height of at least one hundred feet. The whole neighbourhood was alarmed and the people terror-stricken. Some shrieked out that the Day of Judgment had come; others fled to the neighbouring mountains, whilst others wept and wrung their hands in their fright. The eruption and flames were plainly visible in the village of Ceres, and numbers of the villagers went to the spot in carts to witness the phenomenon. The eruption and high flames lasted in full fury for a good half-hour, and then gradually subsided, eventually dying out in about three quarters of an hour from its commencement. The spectators first thought it was a violent whirlwind; but when the flames appeared darting up into the sky they thought that the end of the world had come."

REPORTS BY EMINENT EXPERTS.

Numerous reports, from the leading Oil Experts of Europe and America, have also been obtained—especially upon the Ceres district which has been very fully reported upon by such eminent Experts as W. W. Van Ness (late United States Geological Survey); J. E. Mills Davies, A.I.M.M. (*South African Mining Journal,* Johannesburg); Moris Mencher, of Sloboda, Galicia; Frank L. Chapman, Ohio and Milwaukee Oil and Gas Territory, U.S.A.; H. G. Hubbard (late Manager Assam Oil Company, Limited). In addition, the Petroleum films have been analysed and reported upon by W. Gasson, Analytical Chemist, the present Mayor of Kimberley, and finally a sample of native oil rock has been examined and reported on by the famous Expert, Sir Boverton Redwood, whose report is quoted above.

All the Experts agree that the indications are due to the presence of Petroleum, and that the geological formation of the district is entirely favourable to the accumulation and storage of Oil in large quantities. Indeed, they tend to show that South Africa is a potential Oil Field second to none in the world.

Arrangements are now being completed for the active and systematic development of this new field, and an important parent Company is in course of formation.

IMPORTS OF OIL INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

The present imports of oil in South Africa are of considerable value, as will be seen from the following table from "The Statistical Abstract for the British Self-governing Dominions."

These figures, however, are independent of the trade that would naturally follow from the establishment of an oilfield within 100 miles of Simonstown, the South African naval base, and the supply of a cheap fuel by means of which the enormous iron deposits known to exist throughout the Cape could be turned to profitable account, to say nothing of the certain adoption of oil as fuel, in place of coal, by the Cape Government railways or of the general export trade.

	1909.		1910.	
	Gallons.	Value.	Gallons.	Value.
		£		£
Lubricating	2,207,348	103, 71	2,801,908	137,698
Mineral (Paraffin)	7,929,764	234,712	8,846,341	269,984
Motor Spirits, including Benzine and Naphtha	645,005	26,258	855,679	34,609
Totals	10,782,117	£364,741	12,503,928	£442,291

For further information apply to the SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LIMITED,
80, COLEMAN STREET,
LONDON, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, *52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

COMBINES.—E. G. W. (Birmingham).—We have looked through the papers you sent us, and do not find you have any ground of complaint. The stocks were bought on margin, which ran off, owing to the fall in the price. We know nothing against the firm.

BRITANNIA CHINA CLAY CO., LTD.—R. B. (Belfast).—The capital of this Company is £50,000. The debit balance on the 1st February, 1911, was £2,497, and no dividend has ever been paid. There is no market for the shares. We do not advise an investment.

THE SMALLHOLDERS' AND POULTRY-KEEPERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.—A. H. C. (Clapton).—There is no information obtainable about this concern on the market, and we do not recommend a purchase.

ARGENTINE TOBACCO CO., LTD.—T. R. W. (Winchmore Hill).—The Company was brought out under good auspices. The preference shares are quoted 19s. 2d.. There is no price yet for the deferred and you have no option but to hold.

INVESTMENT.—OLD SQUIRRAM.—We do not advise dealing with the people you mention. You can obtain 4 per cent. "gilt-edged securities" in Colonial Government Bonds. If you wish a higher yield, we can send you a list of Home industrials. You can safely deal with the Oil and General Share Exchange, 38, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.

KENT COLLIERIES.—COAL (Doncaster).—We cannot advise a purchase of the Ordinary shares, only the Preference shares are being dealt in on the market.

BRIGHTON A.—ARIAN.—A fair purchase. The dividend is announced in January of each year. The rate was 5½ per cent for 1911.

SOUTH AFRICANS.—REDDITCH.—We would advise you to keep to Rhodesians or Kaffirs, West Africans are very doubtful. Randfontein Centrals are promising. Amalgamated Props are 5s. shares. The litigation in which the latter Company has been involved is now settled.

MEXICAN MINE.—CORRESPONDENT.—From enquiries made we find that this mine has been closed down for some time past, and there are no longer any dealings in the shares. The Company is a very doubtful concern.

GUTHRIE AND GUNTER.—MONT.—We have made enquiries and find that this firm left the address you give some weeks ago. We are unable to ascertain their present whereabouts.

KOZLOWSKY PETROLEUM.—RUSSIAN.—You will find full information on another page. We do not expect the predicted rise till after the war.

OIL IN SOUTH AFRICA.—COLONIST, T. W. (Glasgow), L. C. S. (Leicester), INTERESTED.—The syndicate is busily engaged with a view, we understand, to making a big issue after the war. The *Financial Times* has modified its statement. We refer to the matter elsewhere.

BUCKLAND'S ESTATES.—H. P. H. (Bolton).—Your stockbroker friend evidently knows very little about the Venture. We have it on the best authority that not only is there the clearest indications of a true fissure or diamond pipe on the property, but that its value as an agricultural and residential centre for the Barkly West district alone represents the total capital of the company.

A. C. (Hampstead).—The market is flat, doubtless owing to the inability or unwillingness of purchasers to take up their stock, thus causing forced sales on a generally weak market. Our information is that the property is a valuable one, and the shares intrinsically worth more than the highest price touched up to now. We regret that we cannot do what you desire.

COMMERCIAL ADVANCE CO.—BROKE-UP complains of dealings with this concern, which is an alias for the notorious David Swyers, the fee-snatcher.

PREMIUM BONDS.—TAMBACK.—If you communicate with Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., of 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris, who are thoroughly reliable people, they will give you the information you require.

UNITED COUNTIES INSURANCE CO.—MANCUNIAN.—We have seen the London representatives of this Company, and we understand that they are willing to maintain the policies in force or make an allowance against their surrender. You had better see the Manchester officials.

REFUGE ASSURANCE.—REFUGE (Preston).—You hold a joint life policy on yourself and wife, on which you have paid premiums amounting to £30 3s. 3d. The agent told you that if you applied for a Free Paid-up policy you could claim the full amount with interest added, or a cash surrender for the amount paid in, less 2s. in the £. Having claimed a free policy, you are now told you must loose £12 and all interest, and that if you surrender the policy for cash, you must loose £21. If the statements made by the agent, and which you say were made in the presence of witnesses, influenced you to apply for the policy, we think you could recover the premiums paid, on the ground that you were induced to assure on representations which have since proved to be false. A Company is responsible for the acts and representations of its agents, unless notice of the limitation of his authority is written on the proposal form (which forms the basis of the contract) and brought under the notice of the policy-holder at the time the policy is applied for. Consult a local solicitor.

INSURANCE QUERY.—SUSPENSUS.—We should advise for the annuity Life Office A.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—W. J. R.—What is your reason for having insured your father-in-law without his knowledge or consent? Let us know, and send us the policy, when we will advise you. 403,648.—You send us five policies which you say were taken out by your mother on the lives of her three children, whose ages ranged from 3 years upwards. Your mother's name is not mentioned in any of the policies as the proposer. We fail to discover that your mother has a legal title to these policies with the exception perhaps of one on the life of A. J. H. She had better make application to the Company for the return of the premiums paid on the ground that no legal interest is vested in her by the issue of the policies. M. A. C. (Todmorden).—The policies are issued "on the life of another," the assured being your father and mother respectively. You assert that the proposal forms were not signed by them or yourself as the proposer, but by the agent, and on this account you want a refund of the premiums paid. We do not think this irregularity would entitle you to recover. The policies are legal unless you can show that at the time you applied you had no bona-fide expectation that you would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of the assured.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CO.—A. R. (Edinburgh).—The policy on the life of your mother is for your benefit, and is legal provided at the time the proposal was made you had a bona-fide belief that you would incur expenses in connection with her death or funeral. The conditions of the policy do not provide for a free paid-up policy after 5 years, nor for the payment of a cash surrender value in the event of the premiums being discontinued, and unless the payments are kept up the amounts already paid will become forfeited to the Company. See the local Superintendent and ascertain if a free policy can be obtained, and, if so, for what amount?

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ASSURANCE CO.—A. B. (Port Talbot).—The Act of 1909 does not specifically define the nature of the expenses, but we should assume that the expenditure you mention would come within its scope. To create a legal contract the Act states that the policy must be effected by or on account of a person who had at the time a bona-fide expectation that he would incur expenses in connection with the death or funeral of the assured.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL INSURANCE.—T. J. W. (Southampton).—It is not possible to evade the call by forfeiting the money already paid. This is the law and applies to the shares of all Joint Stock Companies. There is no free market for the shares, and the only way to dispose of them is by private treaty. The Company is of recent formation, and is, we believe, carefully managed, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable it to reach an assured position.

COLONIAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—R. J. C. (Belfast).—The Tontine policy you hold is a whole life policy, but limited so far as the payment of premiums is concerned to 20 years. The contract recites that had you died before the expiration of the 20th year the sum assured, £500, plus all premiums, would have been paid over to your legal representative. The position now appears to be that you can exercise various options, including the payment to you of £49 2s., representing the profit withdrawable in cash. You must decide which of the options you will accept, as you are entirely in the hands of the Society. In any event, the assurance, with profits, exceeds the amount of premiums you have paid. D. R. (Leuchars).—A well established Society and quite safe.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—A. B. (Whitburn).—The Company, according to the valuation results ascertained over a period covering two quinquennial investigations, has enjoyed a progressive and prosperous career and has made a fair return to the shareholders on the amount of the paid-up capital. The third quinquenniam will be reached at the close of the present year. You have already invested in shares and are disposed to increase your holding if we are able to recommend you to do so. A few years ago the Company abandoned that section of its business having reference to house-purchase certificates, and has since been reorganised on purely life assurance lives. This has meant a temporary set back and loss of premium income. The Company, however, is under energetic and experienced management, and will, we are satisfied, soon make up the leeway. Its policies are up-to-date, and we may say a little in advance of the times, but this is probably a step in the right direction. The only doubt we have is in relation to the establishment of its new industrial branch, which has necessarily had the effect of adding largely to the expenditure, and which cannot be expected to be productive from a profit earning standpoint for some time to come. We believe, however, that this branch is under close supervision, and that the management are not anxious for big results, preferring to develop slowly and carefully. We are not ourselves advocates of the existing Industrial Assurance System which, while yielding large profits from a shareholder's standpoint, only provides, apart from the payment of the sum assured in the event of death, the return of what we consider inadequate benefits should the premium payments, for any reason, have to be discontinued. Looking at the matter all round we are inclined to regard the shares of this Company as a good lock up, and likely to appreciate in value and to bring improving dividends commensurable with the growth and development of the Company. The directors, we consider, are acting wisely by increasing the capital, and we are of opinion that a paid-up capital of at least a quarter of a million sterling could be safely and profitably used, as the demand for loans for house purchase in connection with life assurance is very considerable, and provides a ready productive outlet for all the available funds of the Company.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—S. M. (Brighton).—We are glad we have been of service. E. B. (Dunstable).—You claim the return of the premiums, as the policy is illegal. Write to the head office and if they will not return the money, sue them in the County Court. You can obtain a free policy for yourself. W. C. (Horfield).—Your better course would be not to pay any more money. E. J. L. (Rotherham).—The policy is yours, and as such you could claim through the Courts, but that would be an expensive procedure. Your best plan is to make a will and leave it to your friend. It is quite in order for you to do so. B. G. (Kidwelly).—You cannot claim any cash, but could demand a free policy for about £2, which amount would be payable at your death. J. L. (Farnham).—You can recover the premiums paid. If they will not pay, sue in the County Court. V. D. (Ashbourne).—We are afraid you have no claim. If you continue the payments and find out that the father is dead you can claim all the premiums paid after that event in addition to the amount he is insured for. C. F. (Kingston-on-Thames).—You can do nothing. E. P. (Bedford).—If you have only paid four and a-half years on your daughter's policy, you cannot claim a free policy. If what you say is true, namely, that your daughter did not sign the proposal form, the policy is illegal and the premiums paid are recoverable.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

THE COMING OIL BOOM

If you want to be in the best things when the Boom comes, send us your name and address, and in return we will forward you, free of charge, a copy of the *Oil Market Review*, and will keep you acquainted with all important market movements. Please, however, understand that we are not a "Bucket Shop," and that we transact no business on the Cover or Marginal system, nor do we promote Pools, Combinations, or any other of the manifold schemes associated with the methods of so-called Outside Brokers. We deal only for bonâ-fide delivery, but are prepared to afford clients every reasonable financial facility. If you are interested, write to the

OIL & GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE,
38, FINSBURY PAVEMENT, LONDON, E.C.

Telegrams: OLEOGENSIA AVE, LONDON. Telephone: LONDON WALL 3973.

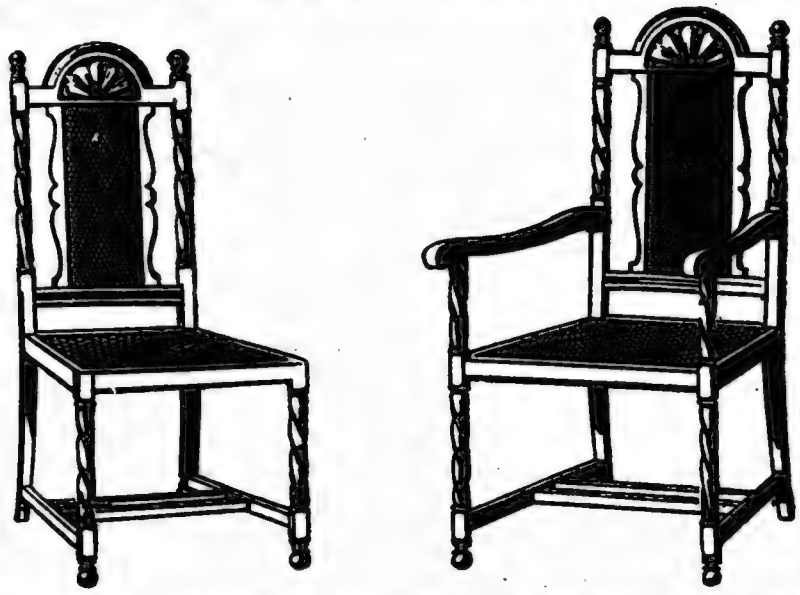
Our first "Bullets" prize increased this week to £200.

OUR BOAST.

We can truthfully boast that we are the originators of selling well-made and artistic furniture at cash prices on the Gradual Payment System, and through the fact that the buying public have appreciated this we have now the largest business of its kind in the world, our Showroom floor space alone covering 45,000 feet.

Every article is marked in plain figures at competitive cash prices and can be supplied on our well-known Gradual Payment System, the payments extending over 1, 2 or 3 years at the option of the purchaser. No deposit is required, neither do we add interest or make any extra charges whatsoever.

Mahogany Bureau, Inlaid with Satin Wood. Constructed on Sheraton lines. **£2 2 0**



Set of Six Dining Room Chairs, comprising 4 Smalls and 2 Carvers. The frames are of oak, polished antique brown, and the backs and seats are of cane. **£7 17 6**

TERMS.

Worth. £	Per Month. £ s. d.
10	6 0
20	11 0
50	1 8 0
100	2 5 0
200	4 10 0
500	11 5 0
1,000	22 10 0
2,000	45 0 0

Or by other proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

A SPECIAL DISCOUNT OF 10 PER CENT. IS ALLOWED FOR CASH.

SECOND-HAND DEPARTMENT.
We have in this department alone a stock valued at considerably over £10,000, and a special catalogue is issued weekly, which we shall be be pleased to forward post free on application.

In order that Country Customers may make a personal selection we will pay their fares to town on all orders of £20 and upwards.

Country orders are packed and delivered free.

OUR FULLY ILLUSTRATED 1913 CATALOGUE IS NOW READY, AND WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO SEND THIS TO YOU POST FREE ON APPLICATION.

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2,000 XMAS TURKEYS!

This week in consequence of the extraordinary success of "Bullets," we are able to make a record offer. In addition to 5,000 Special Xmas Gifts, we are giving during the next five weeks 2,000 FINE PLUMP TURKEYS to be supplied by a well-known firm. Four hundred Turkeys are offered this week. The winners' names and addresses will be published in "John Bull" and "Mrs. Bull," and the Turkeys despatched in ample time for the Yule-tide dinner.

£200 FOR A "BULLET"!

PRIZES VALUE £750

Our First "Bullets" Prize is again increased, and we are giving the very substantial sum of £200 for the best "Bullet" received.

First Prize £200

2nd Prize £25 - 3rd Prize £10

Ten Prizes of £2 10s. 0d.

And a Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes.

In addition to the above cash prizes we are giving

PRIZES VALUE £750

1,000 Handsome Christmas Prizes

AND

400 XMAS TURKEYS.

UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST ATTRACTIVE AND GENEROUS OFFER EVER MADE.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

TURKISH ARMY	HAIR PIN	HER ANSWER	THEIR FIRST BABY	COLD SNAP
GAIETY GIRL	TRY AGAIN	PARTY POLITICS	STRAIGHT TIP	WHEN FATHER ARRIVES
LORD CHARLES BERESFORD	MEDIATION	THE GUV'NOR	AFTER DARK	BRITISH COLONIES
INCOME TAX	WINDOW SMASHING	TALL STORY	SUCCESS	NEW COOK
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	BONAR LAW	IN RETREAT	MOST EXPENSIVE	TAXICAB
THE CENSOR	NEWCASTLE UNITED	MRS. GRUNDY	SHORT & SWEET	HASHED MEAT
WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY	LOST STUD	READY MONEY	MAN	CAN'T UNDERSTAND
GETTING THE BISCUIT	CORRUPTION	STEAM LAUNDRY	TOO LATE	PICTURE PALACE

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The initial letters of the FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "BONAR LAW" and choose the letters "N" and "L," using the word "UNIONIST" as the middle word, you can form the Bullet "NOW UNIONIST LEADER." Or from the example "SUCCESS" the Bullet "EVERYBODY SEEKS" can be formed. Again, if you take the example "COLD SNAP," using the letter C as initial letter for both the first and the last word, you can form the Bullet "COAL RAPIDLY CONSUMED."

KINDLY NOTE

That Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

BULLETS CAN ONLY BE CONSTRUCTED FROM ANY OF THE FORTY ABOVE EXAMPLES.

Closing date, Wednesday, Nov. 20th.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(7) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Closing date, Wednesday, Nov. 20th.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(7) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

.....

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

IF BOTH COUPONS ARE USED A POSTAL ORDER FOR 1/- MUST BE SENT.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Envelopes should be marked "BULLETS, No. 7," "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE JUDGING

Many of these competitions are hastily or carelessly judged, and numerous good coupons are overlooked. **Every BULLETS Coupon will be read slowly and carefully by our special staff of adjudicators of the highest ability,** after which all the coupons will be read a second time, and just as much time and trouble will be devoted to the second reading as to the first. By this means it is practically impossible for any coupon to be overlooked.

RULES ON OPPOSITE PAGE.

THE RESULT OF THIS COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED DECEMBER 7TH, 1912. ALL CHEQUES SENT ON DAY OF ISSUE.

RESULT OF OUR FOURTH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £135:—

Mr. R. EDGHILL
4, Aldred Terrace, Rotherham, Yorks.

Example:—NEVER MET.
Bullet:—NEWSBOY—HA'PENNY READY.

SECOND PRIZE OF £10:—

Mr. HARRY HODGSON,
51, English Street, Carlisle.

Example:—GAMBLING.
Bullet:—"BROODING" AFTER "LAYING."

THIRD PRIZE OF £5:—

Mr. JOHN COWEN,
45, High Road, Lee, Kent.

Example:—POUNDS, SHILLINGS, PENCE.
Bullet:—OPERA, THEATRE, CINEMA.

Four Prizes of £2 10s. go to:—Mr. H. EMMERSON, 9, Alexandra Street, Partick, Glasgow: Example:—THE LAST WORD; Bullet:—EVERY SUCCEEDING "DREADNOUGHT." Mr. QUINTIN KEAN, Dunreggan, Montaine, Dumfries: Example:—WE ALL DISLIKE; Bullet:—LEDGER SHOWING DEFICIT: Mr. B. L. FORREST, Main Street, Shotts, Lanarkshire: Example:—FATHER'S NAP; Bullet:—AFTER DINNER Pa's-time. Mr. C. SHEFFIELD, 21a, Cheetham Street, Rochdale, Lancs: Example:—POUNDS, SHILLINGS PENCE; Bullet:—PROSPERITY, ECONOMY, POVERTY.

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH:

W. G. LINNELL, 80, Woodend Lane, Erdington, B'ham.
J. WILLMOTT, 135, Caerleon Road, Newport, Mon.
G. R. POLLOCK, Belfield, Muir St., Larkhall, Lanarks.
W. J. MUMFORD, Wyndham Street, Brigend, Glam.
Mrs. A. BARTER, 41, Holland Road, Plymouth.
E. HOGARTH, 44, Victoria Street, Paignton, South Devon.
Miss A. DYER, Mandalay, St. Helens, I.O.W.
ALEX. DRAPER, 99, Woodroyd Road, Bradford, Yorks.
R. MCCONNELL, 185, Eskrick Street, Bolton.
ELSIE CLARKE, 148, Richmond Road, Ilford, Essex.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH:

E. A. FRENCH, 12, Moffat Road, Palmers Green, N.
E. BROWNING, c.o. Mrs. Mc Sweaney, Headley, Newbury.
C. BOULTER, 73, Melbourne Street, Southampton.
JAMES WADE 5 Royal Buildings Victoria Road, Penarth.
C. CLUNERY, 153, Sultan Road, Portsmouth.
FRED DUTTON, Burleydam, Whitchurch, Salop.
G. W. BRADLEY, Kingsley House, Kingsley Road, Norwich
Mrs. MARSH, 15, Rolleston Street, Warrington, Lancs.
G. W. ASHER, Montana, Ferres.
H. BRITTEN, 37, Woodstock Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.
J. H. PINE, St. Paul's Road, Chichester, Sussex.
J. W. HARRIS, Duke Street, Staveley, Chesterfield.
C. WENMOUTH, H.M.S. "Impregnable," Devonport, Devon.
T. HUSSEY, 70, Sedlescombe Rd., South, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.
A. COOPER, 113, South Park Road, Wimbledon, S.W.
A. SMITH, "Beeleigh," London Road, West Malling.
J. B. MATHESON, 79, Balgreen Road, Murrayfield, Edinburgh.
W. REEKS, 22, Pawson Road, Croydon.
H. J. WILLS, 46, Calbourne Road, Balham, S.W.
T. H. SHAW, Freeman, Hardy & Willis, 8, High St., Wainfleet.

Selection from List of Special Prize Winners Bullets Comp. No. 4.

Macandrew, Alex., 532, Great Western-rd., Mannofield, Aberdeen, N.B.
Macdonald, James, 12, Park-ter., South Shields.
Macintyre, John, Glenlee, Cardross.
McInver, Duncan, Old Kilpatrick, Glasgow, N.B.
McLachlan, Walter, 22, Glendidgo-st., Rochdale.
McLeod, Robert E., "Elmhurst," High-rd., Woodford Bridge, Essex.
McVey, William, Johnstone-bldgs., Feus, Bannockburn, N.B.
Mack, W. J., 75, Rutland-st., Grimsby.
Mann, Cecil M. C., Staff, Town Hall, Camberwell.
Marsden, Alf., Lake Vyrnwy Fwed. Via Oswestry, North Wales.
Martin, J., 159, Albany-st., Regent's Park.
Mattison, Arthur, North Leketon, Lincs.
Mey, William Richard, 6, Thornhill House, Barnsbury Pk., London, N.
Mayhew, Miss C. M., 11, Ipswich-st., Stowmarket, Suffolk.
Mayhew, F., 13, Brewer-st., Buckingham Palace-rd., S.W.
Mead, C. D., 6, York-ter., Devizes, Wilts.
Meadows, V. R. H., 17, Cambridge-st., Cleethorpes, Lincs.
Meares, R. B., 20, Woodcot-ave., Bloomfield, Belfast.
McMenamin, P. M., Surveyor's Dept., G.P.O., Northern District, Dublin.
Merchant, Mrs. E., 33, Davis-st., Plaistow.
Miles, E. E., 69, Hunter-rd., Wellesborough, Ashford, Kent.
Millar, Andrew, Huntershill Quarry, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.
Miller, Geo. H., 308, Huckrall-rd., Sherwood, Nottingham.
Millar, T. W., 12, Millbrook-ter., co. Meath, Ireland.
Millar, H. M., "Roquebrune," Dunoon.
Mills, J. R., Chemist, Platt Bdge., Wigan.
Mills, P. T., R.M.L.I., Browndown Camp, Gosport, Hants.
Milnes, Col.-Sergt. A., Army Recruiter, 8, Criss, Linlithgow, Scotland.
Mitton, F. E., "Woolthorpe," Pollard's Hill East, Norbury, S.W.
Mitchell, W., Highland-rd. Post Office, Portsmouth.
Mitchell, Fredk. Wm., Bon Marche, Honiton, Devon.
Mitchell, Miss Lily, c/o West Riding Bill Posting Co., 2, Town Hall-st. E., Halifax.
Mobbs, B. E., 183, Alderson-rd., Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
Morgan, W. F., 41, South-st., Bargoed, nr. Cardiff, Glam.
Morley, Mrs. J., Portsmouth-rd., Lee-on-Solent, Hants.
Moore, Alfred 24, Brereton-rd., High-rd., Tottenham, N.
Moore, N., "Tavistock," Barnstaple, Devon.
Moore, —, 15, Libra-rd., Bow, London, E.
Morris, P., 29, Chandos-st., Wetherfield, Nottingham.
Morris, A. C., 18, Brighton-pl., Portobello, N.B.
Morris, Thos. E., 5, Almerda-ter., Brookfield-rd., Dublin.
Morrison, Maurice, 2, Pope's-rd., Brixton.
Morrison, Mrs., 155, Easter-rd., Leith.
Mousley, G. R., Homeleigh, 39, Blythe Hill Lane, Catford, S.E.
Murray, Chas., 95, Reginald-ter., Leeds.
Murray, J. D., 17, Hillside-st., Edinb'gh.
Mutch, J. Maclean, 124, Nelson-rd., Crouch End, London, N.
Newholm, V. A., 76, Ivy-rd., Cricklewood.
Newman, Mrs., 47, Brockley Rise, Forest Hill, S.E.
Neville, Alexander, 88, Hozier-st., Partick, Glasgow.
North, Mrs. B., 216, Wessex Flats, Wedmore-st., U. Holloway, London, N.
Norton, F. W., White Horse Inn, Borstal, Rochester.
Osborne, Charles F., "Oakbank," St. John's-rd., Corstorphine, Edinburgh.
Oswald, Alfred S., 15, Mulgrave-ter., Kingstown, co. Dublin.
Owen, Kath. M., 11, King Edward-st., Fraserburgh, Aberdeen.
Padgett, W., 19, Lincoln-st., Wakefield.
Palmer, Miss E. M., 30, Beresford-rd., Hornsey, London, N.
Palmes, Will., 107, Queen-st., Maidenhead, Berkshire.
Panton, T. H., 6, Harper-st., Selby.
Park, W. T. G., 18, Fieldhouse-rd., Balham.
Parker, A. A., P.O., Great Hamilton-st., Glasgow.
Parry, Miss May, 27, William-pl., Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil.
Parsons, Arthur A., 35, Ryde-vale, Greenwich, S.E.
Peace, Miss Laura, Huddersfield-rd., Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury.
Pearce, E. J., 180, Broadhurst gdns., West Hampstead, N.W.
Peck, H. C., 51, Mitcham-rd., East Ham.
Pellow, F., 29, Myrtle-rd., Acton, London.
Pemberton, Walter, 3, Athol-st., Douglas, Isle of Man.
Penny, Miss G., 76, Trouville-rd., Clapham Pk., London, S.W.
Perkins, Staff-Sergt., A.O.C., 204, Folkestone-rd., Dover, Kent.
Phillips, Frederick C., 23, King-st., Richmond, Surrey.
Pickering, Samuel, 29, Keys-st., Derby.
Piper, A., 8, Forge-rd., Darlaston, Staffs.
Piper, William, 16, Lily-road, Litherlane, Liverpool.
Powell, Mrs., "York Arms," 33-35, King st., Ramsgate.
Pratt, W., Winterhude, Townfield, Doncaster.
Pratt, T. R., Quay-st., Newport, I.W.
Price, Mrs. F. T. J., 6, Holmesdale-rd., Bristol.
Proctor, Miss K., 38, Gladstone-st., Workington, Cumb.
Putman, H., West Lodge, Langley-ct., Beckenham, Kent.
Read, Cecil E., 111, Stornoway-rd., Southend-on-Sea.
Reed, Geo. H., 47, Malmesbury-rd., Southampton.
Rees, W. Cyril, 29, Australia-rd., Cardiff
Reeves, Thos., Blarney, Newlands-ave., Southampton.
Reynolds, Mrs. A. V., 61, Rodenhurst-rd., Clapham Pk., S.W.
Rhodes, Mrs. E., 23, Church-ave., Penarth, Cardiff.
Rhodes, J. H., 7, Upper Third-ave., Long-rd., Wortley, Leeds.
Richards, R. W., M.L., 3, North Parade, Llandudno, N. Wales.
Richardson, H., 171, Foleshill-rd., Covent'y
Rickard, H. J., 77, Harriet-st., Cathays Cardiff.
Riddell, Wm. F., 113, Mount Annan Drive, Glasgow.
Ridsdill, Mrs. Ada, 3, Grantham-st., Coventry.
Ritchie, Jas. C., 17, Meadowbank-st., Windsor-ave., Lisburn-rd., Belfast.
Ritchie, Jas. A., 62, Skeacie-st., Aberdeen.
Ritchie, May, 133, High-rd., Wood Green.
Robbins, N. E., 93, Stoke Newington-rd.
Roberts, Desmond, Eston Lodge, Leigh-rd East, Southend-on-Sea.
Robey, R. G., Clovelly, Andrews-rd., Penarth, South Wales.
Roberts, James, 804, Dumbarton-rd., Dalmuir, nr. Glasgow, Scotland.
Robinson, J., Floriston, Rockcliffe Carlisle.
Rae, Wm. J., 51, Blackness-ave., Dundee.
Roberts, F., 39, Beecholme-rd., Upper Clapton, London.
Rogers, Mrs. Gertrude A., 42, Lime-grove Cheadle Cheshire.
Ronaldson, W. R., 2, Spring-gdns., Chester.
Round, Harry, Orchestra, Theatre Royal, Darlington.
Round, W., 8, St. Peter's-rd., Handsworth, Staffs.
Roonly, Percy N., "Holmwood," Blenheim-gdns., Wallington.
Rowe, Winifred, Creswell, Stafford.
Rutter, Stanley John, 29, Athol-rd., Bradford, Yorks.
Ruthven, James, Maitland Bank, Larkhall, Lanarkshire.
Ryle, Mrs. R. C., Benvoulin-rd., Oban.
Sadler, Mrs. A., 12, Aberdeen-ct., Maida Vale, W.
Salmon, Wm., 63, Northcroft-rd., West Ealing.
Sammes, Joseph W., 44, Griffin-rd., Plumstead, Kent.
Samuel, John, 29, Bold-sq., Chester.
Sanderson, Frank, Pinchinthorpe, Guisbro', Yorks.
Saunders, Mrs. J., Cemetery Lodge, Swaythling, Southampton.
Scott, Frank, Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, Fife.
Scott, Mrs. Janet, Royal Oak Inn, Seaton, Workington, Cumberland.
Scott, Walter, Wal-Edo-Wor, Upper Brighton-rd., Surbiton.
Seager, Miss Kitty, The Laurels, 21, Windsor-rd., Newport, Mon.
Selley, W., Holmleigh, Crumpsall-lane, Manchester.
Shannon, Jas., 56, Lady Margaret-rd., Tufnell Pk., N.W.
Sharpe, Mrs. A., High-st., St. Margarets, nr. Dover.
Shaw, W., 50, Main-st., Hugglescote, nr. Leicester.
Sherman, A. E., 33, Forest-rd., Enfield Wash, Middlesex.
Sherwin, A. W., Thorncliffe, Longsdon, Stoke-on-Trent.
Shepherd, Edmund, 54, Bedford-ave., Barnet.
Shrubsall, S., 74, Geneva-rd., Brixton.
Silcox, James, 12, The Parade, Upper Mitcham, Surrey.
Silver, F. V., 3, Alexandra-ter., Sirdar-rd., Wood Green, N.
Simmons, Arthur, 11, Trinity-st., Unthank-rd., Norwich.
Simpson, C., 12, Castlegate, Malton, Yorks.
Sims, Harry G., 28, St. Nicholas-ter., Newport, Lincolnshire.
Slade, F. P., Scotia House, Mountain Ash-rd., Dorchester, Dorset.
Sloan, Agnes F., 9, West Fullerton-st., Kilmarnock, Ayrshire.
Smart, William C., 222, Paisley-rd., Glasgow.
Smith, Arthur T., 6, Christ Church-st., Accrington, Hants.
Smith, L. F., 13, North-st., Grantham.
Smith, Mrs. Minnie, 16, Wyndham-st., Canton, Cardiff.
Smith, R., 30, Downing-st., Farnham, Surrey.
Smith, W. L., 94, Hunter House-rd., Sheffield.
Solomon, S., "Elston," Locking-rd., Weston-super-Mare.
Southall, F., 15, Park-view, Queen's Pk., Manchester.
Spence, Miss M. C., 14, Bonneville-rd., Clapham Pk., London, S.W.
Spriggs, Allen Longard, 58, Park-grove, Derby.
Squire, Mrs. H., 15, Robert-ave., Rusholme, Manchester.
Stainer, W. H., 24, Odo-rd., Dover, Kent.
Staley, A. G., Ashley Cross, Parkstone, Dorset.
Stark, Frank, 47, Woodscroft-rd., Liverp'l.
Stephens, A., 21, Windsor-rd., Newport.
Stephens, A. E., 10, William-st., City-rd., Bristol.
Stephens, Miss Hilda, 229, Chepstow-rd., Maindee, Newport, Mon.
Stevens, Geo., 20, Portland-pl., Andover, Hants.
Stewart, Rachel, 307, Caledonia-rd., Glasgow.
Stockham, A., 72, Ramsden-st., Barrow-in-Furness.
Stone, Arthur, 48, Holdenhurst-rd., Bournemouth.
Stonier, Mrs. Ethel, 1, Middleton-rd., Golder's Green, London, N.W.
Stork, Frank, Bickley Hall, Bickley, Kent.
Stinson, S., 17, Meadowbank-st., Windsor-ave., Belfast, Ireland.
Strelley, Constance, 15, Kirk-st., Derby
Strelley, Fred, 1, Camp-st., Derby
Stupart, H., 29, Fore-st., Totnes, Devon.
Storer, Frank, Stanholme, Park-rd., Aldershot.
Sutton, C. H., 45, Rutland-gdns., Harringay, N.
Swaffield, E., 17, Southampton-rd., Fareham, Hants.
Swire, N., 49, Enys-rd., Eastbourne.
Symons, Frank, Doslay, Stafford.
Simpson, R., 12, Cunliffe-ter., Manningham, Bradford.
Talbot, Alfred, 140, Liverpool-rd., Salington, N.
Taylor, R., Foundry Lane Conna's School, Southampton.
Taylor, Miss Kittie, 10, Boon's-pl., Plymouth, Devon.
Terriss, Fred, New Middlesex Theatre, Drury-lane, W.C.
Thomas, A. F., Fairwarp, Sussex.
Thomas, Mrs. Elizabeth-Price, Malaycoed, Malsyewmmer, Mon.
Thomas, George H., 64, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil, Glam., South Wales.
Thompson, Arthur, 18, Ryan-st., Bradford, Yorks.
Thompson, Miss S., Trent House, London-rd., Sittingbourne.

RULES (which must be strictly adhered to).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL, and crossed & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, November 20th.

6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.

7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.

8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

A further selection of the above Prize Winners can be found in 'Mrs. Bull,' dated Nov. 23, and the complete list may be seen at the 'John Bull' Office

RACING NOTES.

Prophetic.

The two remaining big handicaps of the year, the Derby Cup and the Manchester November Handicap, are so similar in distance, and have attracted so many of the same animals, that it is very difficult to say what horse will start for either or both. Perhaps the best thing to stand for the Derby Cup is

LORENZO,

about whom there exists no doubt of owner's intentions.

The Derby programme is a good one. On the second day (Wednesday)

MICKEY FREE

should be good for the Osmaston Nursery. HALLATON ran sufficiently well behind his stable companion, Cigar, last week to give him an undoubted chance in the Chatsworth Plate. The Chaddesden Plate, on Thursday, gives ZEBRE an excellent opportunity of improving on his second at Liverpool.

Newbury, on Friday, should bring out the best thing of the week, in

CASETTA,

for the November Nursery. LANCE CHEST must win the Ormonde Stakes, and PERMO has an excellent chance in the Two-year-old Selling Plate. On Saturday MARITZA looks good to back for the Newbury Autumn Handicap, and WILLIAM OF ORANGE, if he gets off well, will win the Reading Nursery.

SPORTING REPLIES.

H. DIAMOND.—F. S. (Manchester).—We are sorry to hear that a local tenant of licensed premises has got into trouble through selling Diamond's Sweepstake tickets. We are afraid, however, that the law is very explicit on this subject.

SMALLMAN AND TERRY (Geneva).—M. S. (St. Margaret's-on-Thames).—You will be quite safe in dealing with this firm.

ATHLETIC PUBLISHING CO. (Copenhagen).—W. E. H. (Atherstone) makes a serious complaint against these people and forwards us a letter from the London, City and Midland Bank stating that it is quite untrue, as represented, that the sum of £5,200 was lodged with them in connection with a recent sweepstake.

RONAL BENSON.—F. W. (Lincoln) sends us a letter from this man stating that he gave Balscaiden for the Newbury Cup, and, at the same time, forwards us a wire received by his brother from Benson giving Tullibardine for the same race.

SWEEPSTAKE.—J. S. T. (St. Buryar).—The Totalisator, Lucerne, would, we think, be best for your purpose.

DOUGLAS STUART.—E. H. (Rhos-on-Sea).—We understand that no trace can be found of the receipt of the commission, but Mr. Stuart has credited your account with £1, and we think he has acted very honourably in the matter.

J. BERESFORD (Birmingham).—"ADAM BEDE."—One of the soundest men in the Midlands. You will be quite safe in dealing with him.

J. H. WEBSTER (Lausanne).—"BOB" complains of dealings with this firm.

HARRY APPLETON.—R. D. (Old Kent Road).—You can rely upon Mr. Appleton treating you quite honourably.

"SPORTING PROFIT" (Birsfelden).—E. L. W. (Leytonstone) thought he would check the name of one of the alleged prize winners of this firm—"J. Brooks, 451, High Road, Leytonstone"—and, of course, he found that no such person lived there. The thing is a swindle.

C. WINDUST.—A. M. C. (Croydon).—Your claim, if any, is clearly against Mr. Windust, and not against Messrs. Smallman and Terry, whose reputation is unassailable.

WALTER CHADWICK (Glasgow and Switzerland) and AUSTEN WRIGHT (Lucerne).—W. D. (Glasgow) and R. L. P. (Brixton).—These are fictitious names of a person of not very reputable antecedents.

J. M'LAUCHLAN.—W.M.(Handsworth).—We have seen your letter to Mr. M'Lauchlan of September 10th, but do not understand what you mean by saying that the bets on "Stedfast" and "Thistleton" were "wired in error." You should not have sent him further commissions unless you intended to pay or receive in respect of them. In the circumstances, we think Mr. M'Lauchlan was justified in acting as he did, and he informs us that on your returning the stopped cheque to him he will forward you a fresh one for £12 0s. 8d.

£5,000 FOOTBALL SWEEP.

Great interest is being manifested in Messrs. Smallman and Terry's Mammoth Football Cup Sweep, the first prize of which is £2,000 and the second £1,000. Messrs. Smallman and Terry, as we have frequently pointed out, are a substantial and straightforward firm, and our readers may rest assured that everything connected with this particular sweep will be conducted in a thoroughly honourable and satisfactory manner. We have arranged for our Special Commissioner to attend the draw which will take place on December 30th.

AWBERY'S FOOTBALL CUP SWEEP.

Many of our readers are also supporting this private sweep, which will be conducted by Mr. J. F. Awbery, Lucerne, and at the drawing of which we shall also be represented.

"JOHN BULL" BOWLING CUP.

Congratulations to the Kent County Bowling Association, to whom the first holders, Middlesex, have now handed the JOHN BULL Cup, presented as an inter-County trophy to the English Bowling Association, the governing body of the amateur "level green" game in England. Congratulations, too, to the National Association, to which no less than 34 clubs became affiliated during last season. Things are, indeed, bowling along.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 16th November, 1912.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities, will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

	Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL.	Lotinga's Weekly.	Umpire.	Weekly Dispatch.	Sunday Chronicle.	News of the World.	Sports Special.	Irish Sporting Illus.	Sports Express.
1ST LEAGUE	Oldham A. v. Blackburn R.	Blackbn. Won	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Draw
	Newcastle U. v. Derby C.	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Sheffield U. v. Tottenham H.	Spurs Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Bolton W. v. Middlesbro'.	Bolton Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
	Liverpool v. Notts County.	Liverpl. Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Aston V. v. Manchester U.	Villa Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Away	Home	Home
	Chelsea v. Sheffield W.	No Match	Away	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Draw	Home
	Woolwich A. v. Everton.	Everton Won	Home	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Home	Draw	Home
	Bradford C. v. W. Brom. A.	Bradford Won	Home	Home	Home	Away	Draw	—	Home	Home	Away
	Manchester C. v. Sunderland.	Man. C. Won.	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
2ND LEAGUE	Bristol C. v. Blackpool	Bristol Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home	Home
	Burnley v. Fulham.	Burnley Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Draw	Home
	Clapton O. v. Leeds C.	Clapton Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Glossop v. Grimsby T.	Glossop Won	Away	Draw	Draw	Draw	Away	—	Draw	Draw	Home
	Hull City v. Bury	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Leicester F. v. Wol. Wands.	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Away	Draw	Draw
	Lincoln C. v. Huddersfield	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
	Notts. F. v. Birmingham	Birmhm. Won	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Draw
	Preston N. E. v. Barnsley	No Match	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Draw
	Stockport C. v. Bradford	Stockport Won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Home	Home	Draw
SOUTHERN LEAGUE	Swindon v. Bristol Rovers	Swindon Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Portsmouth v. Millwall	No Match	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Draw	Home	—	Draw	Away
	Exeter v. Brentford	Exeter Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	—	Home	Home
	West Ham v. Queen's Park	W. Ham Won	Home	Draw	Away	Away	Draw	Home	—	Draw	Home
	Brighton & H. v. Northampton	Brighton Won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	—	—	Home	Home
	Coventry C. v. Gillingham	Coventry Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Watford v. Norwich C.	Watford Won	Home	Away	Home	Away	Draw	Home	—	Home	Home
	Merthyr T. v. Reading	No Match	Home	Away	Draw	Home	Away	Home	—	Away	Draw
	Crystal Pal. v. Southampton	Palace Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home	Home
	Plymouth v. Stoke	Plymouth Won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	—	Home	Home

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—**Away** second mentioned team to win.

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TURF and FOOTBALL Accountant,

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£500 to 5/-, 2,000 to 1.

This fortunate client being Mr. F. Alexander, 99, York Road, Westminster, S.W. (£1,000 will be put to charity if not true).

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The following claims have been received for our issue of October 26th:—

W. T. TURNER, Esq., 8, Stanhope Gardens, Harringay, N., October 26th. No. 220538.

GEO. J. ROGERS, Esq., 56, Hatfield Road, Bedford Park, W., October 26th. No. 328431.

ALEX. BINNIE, Esq., 24, Deacons Road, Kilsyth, October 26th. No. 20138.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of November 9th:—

555	153818	384581	566635	679072
36869	178622	409811	569195	683206
55572	185089	447167	579118	697025
71905	210493	467984	597677	714187
95791	228783	495174	608793	716974
108793	260962	502463	617130	726185
118652	271935	516916	638300	730862
138923	307374	528694	651460	731485
154968	337191	539419	666763	732581
166001	367375	557048	677442	734203

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 20TH).

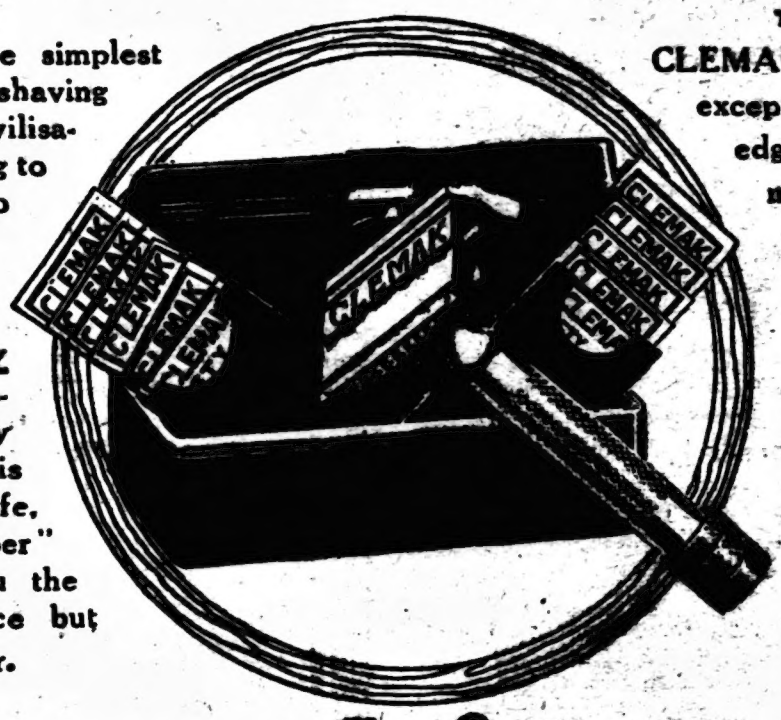
Here's MY Barber

I don't have to wait for him —he waits for me—always ready to give me a surpassingly smooth, comfortable shave, at any time of the day or night.

ONE OUTFIT WILL LAST A LIFETIME. THERE IS NO CONSTANT EXPENSE FOR NEW BLADES—THERE IS NO GRINDING OR HONING EXPENSE EITHER

ITS SHAVING EASE.

The CLEMAK is the simplest and most perfect shaving device known to civilisation. There is nothing to get out of order—no screwing, fixing or adjusting to waste your time. The blade is adjusted at the only right angle automatically. You simply press the knob and this fine, smooth, sure, safe, speedy, clean "barber" is ready to give you the best shave—not once but every day of the year.



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CLEMAK Blades retain their exceptionally keen shaving edges because they are manufactured from the finest quality Sheffield Razor Steel, hardened and tempered by our new secret electrical process.

The CLEMAK Stropping Machine (price 5/6, including good leather strop) compels you to strop at the correct angle and pressure and ensures a clean blade for every shave.

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EVERYBODY'S USING IT.

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NEW MODEL SET & Twelve Blades 7/6
COMBINATION OUTFIT, Stropping Machine, Velvet Hide Strop, Clemak and Twelve Blades. 10/6

"Made as well and shaves as well as any Guinea Razor."

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